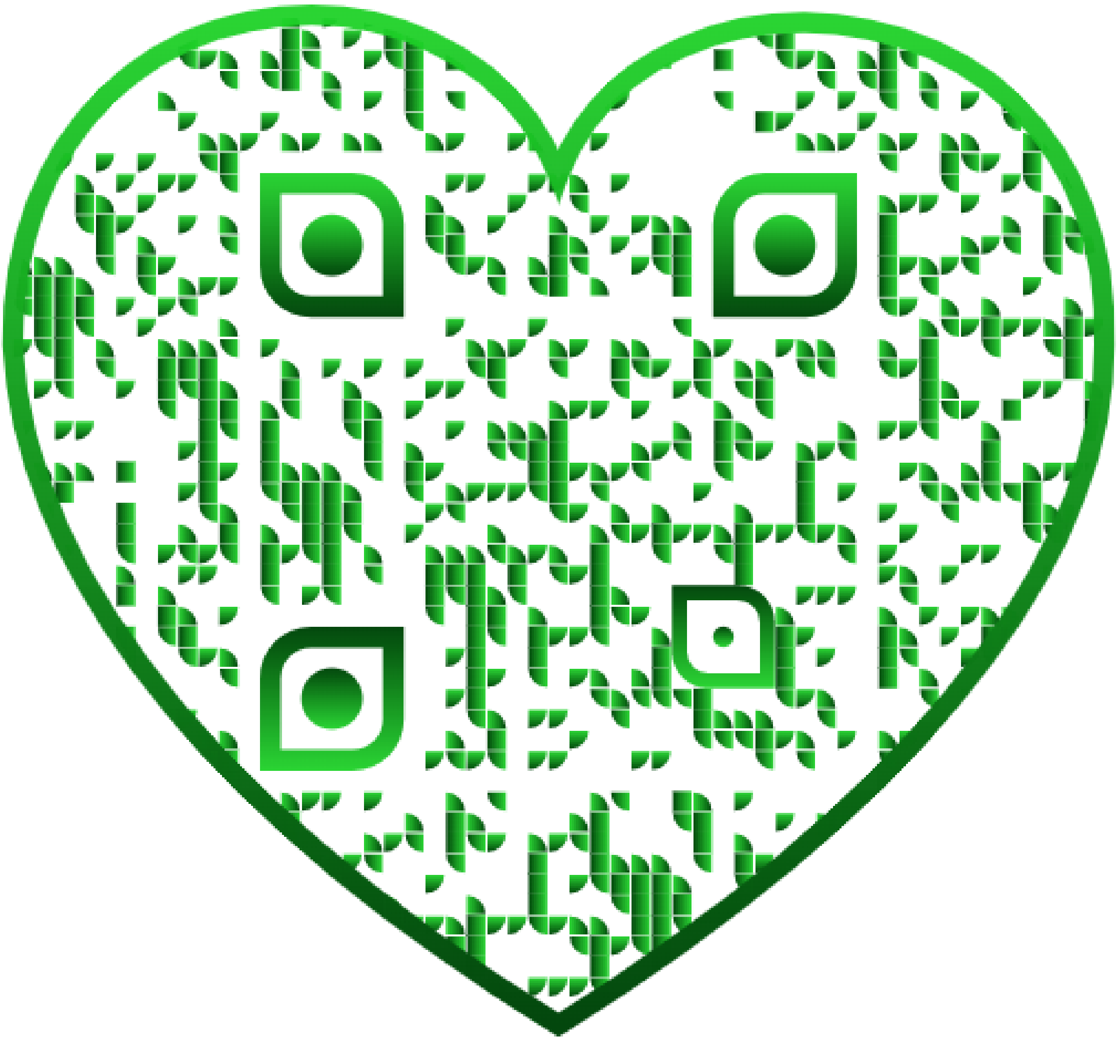
atomic ranch
MID CENTURY MARVELS

THE PALM SPRINGS ISSUE

Inside This Rare 1946 Albert Frey

Inspiring a New Generation of Architects

Make Your Mark With Outdoor Renovations



MIDMOD
COLORADO
Love Mid-Century Modern
& Mountain Vistas?

YOU NEED THE DENVER MIDMOD EXPERT IN YOUR CORNER.

With 13+ years of experience as a Real Estate broker and over $135 million in sales in buying, selling and preserving mid-century modern homes in Denver and Colorado, Adrian Kinney is the only choice to find your dream midmod masterpiece in the mile-high city.

His passion and joy in life is helping mid-century lovers buy, sell, design and preserve 6,000+ mid-century homes in the Denver metro area.

READY TO FIND YOUR PERFECT DENVER MIDMOD? REACH OUT TODAY!

Adrian Kinney

INDEPENDENT BROKER - MIDMOD COLORADO
adrian@midmodcolorado.com
303.219.0629
www.midmodcolorado.com

Contents Spring 2025

HOUSE TOURS

24 Postwar Wonder
Classic desert modernism meets contemporary minimalist design in this rare 1946 build by Albert Frey.

36 A House of Many Chapters
This Palm Springs home's story starts a new chapter with each new owner.

48 Love for a Desert Classic
Palmer & Krisel meet preservation and modernization.

FEATURES

60 The Palm Springs Travel Guide
Ready to get acquainted with the best the desert has to offer? Check out our team's top picks.

70 Young Talent
The Palm Springs Modern Committee is inspiring the next generation of designers and architects.

74 Desert Modernism
The land of fantastic rooflines and sun-smart design gave way to a signature style of Mid Century Modern design.

COLUMNS

8 On Design
We flock to the desert for the mid-century glamour, but what exactly are the key ingredients for that look? The area's top design talents share their tips.

10 Cool Stuff
Bring your living room to life with the essential building blocks of color.

12 Period Picks
Sit back, relax and let these retro outdoor pieces define your MCM backyard.

18 Atomic Kitchens
Bursting with vibrant color, this kitchen is part of a larger total renovation of a 1959 Palm Springs vacation home that doubles as an Airbnb rental.

DEPARTMENTS

6 Editor's Letter
14 In Season
16 Collecting
84 Advertisers
86 Web Update
88 Resources
90 Last Look

cover

Cover photography by Dan Chavkin

Cover design by Gabby Oh

36

ATOMIC RANCH (ISSN 1547-3902) is published 6 times per year (Spring, Summer, Renovation Guide, Fall, Winter, Design Issue) by EG Media Investments LLC, 3622 Lyckan Parkway, Suite 3003, Durham, NC 27707. Periodical postage paid at Durham, NC, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Atomic Ranch c/o EG Media Investments LLC, ColorArt, 101 Workman Ct., Eureka, MO 63025. **Canadian Post:** Publications Mail Agreement #40612608. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: PITNEY BOWES, INC., P.O. Box 25542, London, ON N6C 6B2, Canada. GST #855050365RT001. © 2025 by EG Media Investments LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction of any material from this issue in whole or in part is strictly prohibited.

easy to clean | all season + all weather | awesomely sustainable
loll
DESIGNS
Are you a design professional?
Join our trade program.
lolldesigns.com/atomicranch
Designed + Made in Duluth, Minnesota

editor's letter

PRIME PALM SPRINGS

ATOMIC RANCH HAS BEEN DOING it up in the desert for more than eight years. And as much of a milestone as that is, it's nothing compared to the 20 years that Modernism Week is celebrating this February! Twenty years of saving modernism and just about as long inspiring others to do the same.

If you've never been to Palm Springs, it's wonderful any time of year. But to go in February for Modernism Week and in October for the Fall Preview is what I can only imagine is the excitement of film fans at Cannes and the thrill of fashionistas attending Paris Fashion Week. The city takes on a heightened energy and the sheer number of events and tours available to the touring public is unmatched.

Palm Springs often comes up in conversations during my travels to other modernist hubs in the country, from Denver and Seattle to Durham and Boise. "Have you ever been? Oh, you must go!" and "I wish we could get that much preservation in our town. Oh, but you can!"

When you come to the desert as a Mid Century Modern fan, you'll want to soak up the history and amazing design, but don't forget to pay attention to the inspiration and motivation that are also readily available. It's a great opportunity to see people in action, from the tour organizers and designers to the volunteers and fellow MCM enthusiasts, hosting and celebrating the local mid mod marvels as well as informing visitors how to adapt these outstanding homes' features to their residences with their passion to preserve the era's history and designs.

I hope to see you there as we absorb the wonder of it all and enjoy the warm sun and cool cocktails while we're at it.

Jickie Torres

Get connected!

Email: editor@atomic-ranch.com | Online: atomic-ranch.com | @theatomicranch

atomic ranch

SPRING 2025 • No. 85

EG MEDIA INVESTMENTS LLC
Rima Dorsey: Managing Director/Publisher

EDITORIAL
Content Director and Brand Leader: Jickie Torres
Managing Editor: Meryl Schoenbaum
Associate Editor: Ian McMaster
Web Editor: Jolene Nolte

DESIGN
Design Director: Gabby Oh

CONTRIBUTORS
Lauren Darcangelo, Michelle Mastro, Dana Mauer,
Laura Shimko, Sarah Jane Stone, Victoria Van Vlear

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Dan Chavkin, Oliver Flink, Bret Gum, Susan Pickering

ADVERTISING
Emma Dorsey: Account Representative
Christina Walker: Account Representative
Karen White: Account Representative
Sebastian Tirkey: Advertising Traffic Coordinator
Vipin Marwaha: Advertising Traffic Manager
For advertising inquiries: rdorsey@egmediamags.com

OPERATIONS
Shailesh Khandelwal: Vice President - Operations
Mohammad Danish: Manager - Subscriptions
Surajpal Singh Bisht: Prepress Manager
Manzoor Ahmed & Deepak Kumar: Production, Newsstand
and Circulation Executives

EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE
3622 Lyckan Parkway, Suite 3003, Durham, NC 27707
(844) 330-6373, Fax (972-920-3737)
www.atomic-ranch.com

ATOMIC RANCH (ISSN 1547-3902) is published 6 times per year
(Spring, Summer, Renovation Guide, Fall, Winter, Design Issue)
by EG Media Investments LLC,
3622 Lyckan Parkway, Suite 3003, Durham, NC 27707.
Periodical postage paid at Durham, NC,
and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Atomic Ranch* c/o
EG Media Investments LLC, ColorArt, 101 Workman Ct., Eureka, MO
63025. Canadian Post: Publications Mail Agreement #40612608.
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: PITNEY BOWES, INC.,
P.O. Box 25542, London, ON N6C 6B2, Canada.
GST #855050365RT001.

© 2025 by EG Media Investments LLC. All rights reserved.
Reproduction of any material from this issue in whole or
in part is strictly prohibited.

CUSTOMER SERVICE
EG Media Investments LLC
3622 Lyckan Parkway, Suite 3003
Durham, NC 27707

SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADDRESS CHANGES, RENEWALS,
MISSING OR DAMAGED COPIES AND FOREIGN INQUIRIES
BOOKS, MERCHANDISE AND REPRINTS
(844) 330-6373
subs@egmediamags.com
customerservice@egmediamags.com

BACK ISSUES
https://www.atomic-ranch.com/single-issues/

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, NEW PRODUCTS OR TO
CONTRIBUTE A STORY OR PHOTO
editor@atomic-ranch.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
$29.95/1 year, $52.95/2 years. Foreign, $59.95 per year,
$112.95 per 2 years payable in U.S. funds.
Atomic Ranch single copy price is $9.99;
Renovation Guide and *Design* issue price is $10.99.
Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for new subscriptions to begin.

SIXSAILS GROUP
Prashant Upadhyaya: Portfolio Manager
Wanda Negron: Human Resources

EG MEDIA INVESTMENTS

This magazine is purchased by the buyer with the
understanding that information presented is from various
sources from which there can be no warranty or responsibility
by EG Media Investments LLC, as to the legality, completeness
or technical accuracy.

Valley of the Dolls

"Summer Reading," a six color silk screen edition

the SHAG store

FINE ART, GIFTS,
BOOKS AND
APPAREL BY THE
ARTIST SHAG

745 NORTH
PALM CANYON DR.
PALM SPRINGS, CA

SHAGSTORE.COM

@THESHAGSTORE

By **Jickie Torres** | Photo by **Rex Bonomelli**

That Palm Springs Style

We flock to the desert for the mid-century glamour. But what exactly are the key ingredients for that look? The area's top design talents share their takes.

"Palm Springs design is more than just a style—it's a lifestyle that evokes a sense of relaxed luxury. When we blend our clients' personal style with the classic 'Palm Springs Look' we focus on indoor-outdoor living (seamless transitions between the two as well as really creating outdoor rooms), bold and vibrant colors and keeping things light and airy as well as leaning into comfortable furnishings and natural materials."
—**Kevin Kemper,** H3K Home+Design

"To achieve a Palm Springs interior design look, focus on clean lines, natural materials like wood and stone, vibrant colors, geometric patterns and a seamless connection between indoor and outdoor spaces."
—**Michael Norpell,** Michael Norpell Wall to Wall

"The Palm Springs design style spans from its mid-century influence to eclectic and modern. Coming out to Palm Springs [many years ago] was a refreshing experience for me without restrictions; where creativity is in the air and clients are eager to adopt the freedom of the Palm Springs style. I love the idea that there is no 'one size fits all.' Many clients still own traditional homes in other parts of the country, but when they come to Palm Springs they are looking for a fresh departure and a relaxed atmosphere that says, 'Let's have fun.'"
—**Dick Burkett/Russ Uthe,** Richard Russell Design

"To me, Palm Springs is all about color and glamour. That glamour can be played out in many ways, whether it's the rather traditional approach of a suite of wallpaper, linens and accents or if it's in big, bold artwork and statement furnishings. The point is to be memorable, be luxurious and be timeless."
—**Michael Ostrow,** Grace Home Furnishings

modwalls tile

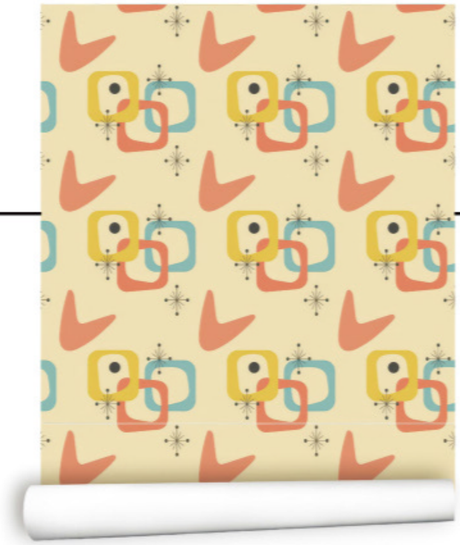
employee owned since 2005

Bring your dream space to fruition with our versatile tiles and vibrant mod-inspired hues!

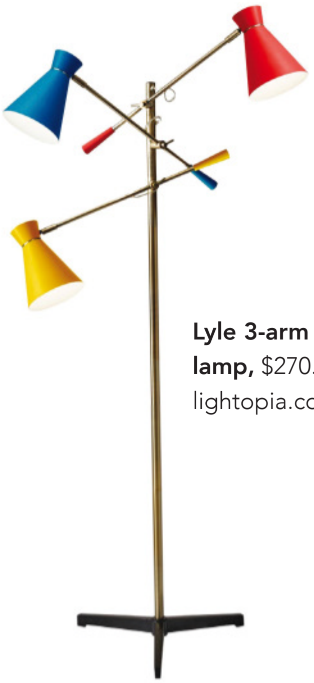
*use code **ATOMIC** for $20 in free samples*

modwalls.com | service@modwalls.com | 877.439.9734

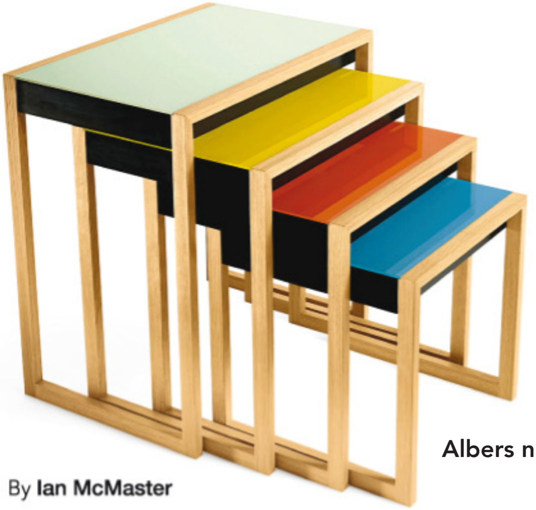
coolstuff



Atomic boomerang self-adhesive wallpaper, $159 per 18-foot roll. Visit katemcenroeny.com.



Lyle 3-arm floor lamp, $270. Visit lightopia.com.

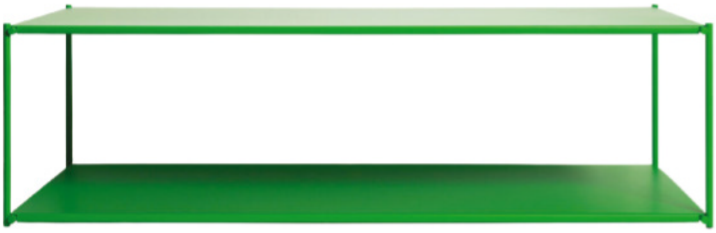


Albers nesting tables, $1,895. Visit store.moma.org.

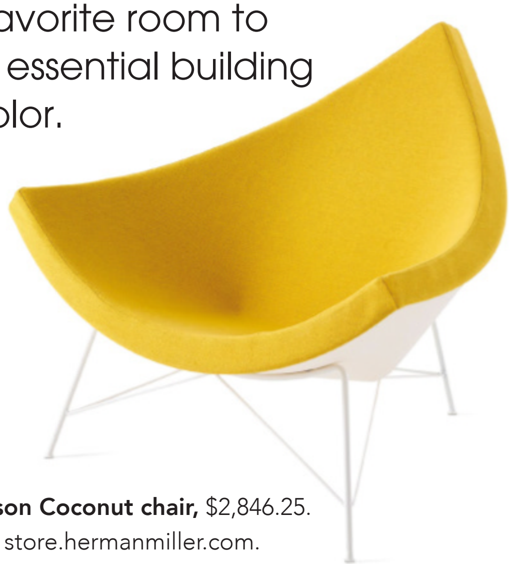
By **Ian McMaster**

Primary **Living**

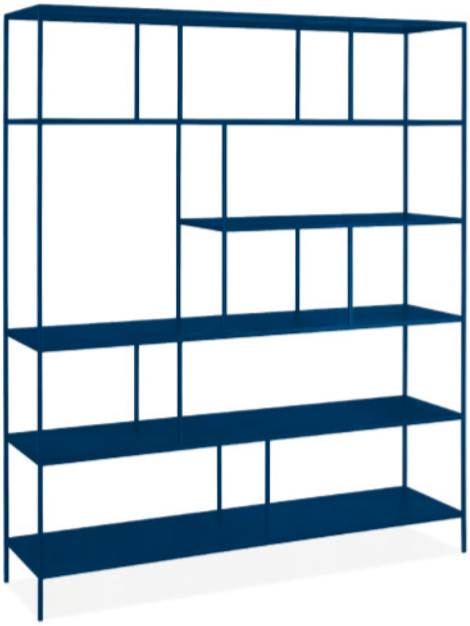
Bring your favorite room to life with the essential building blocks of color.



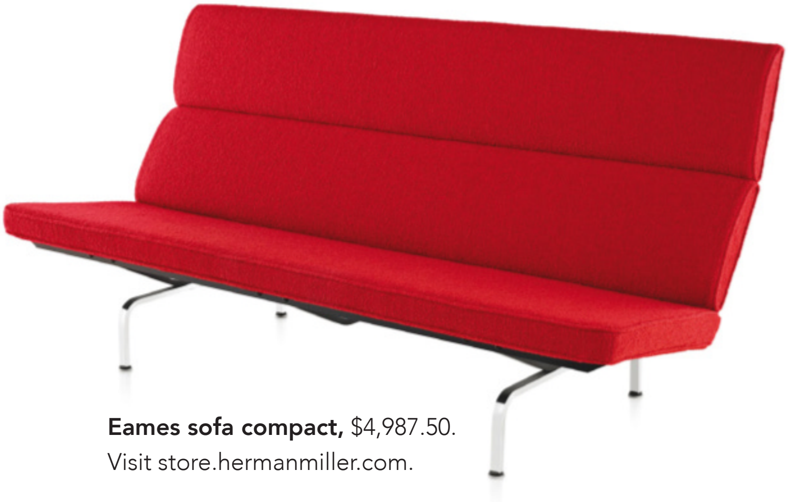
MDT Mobilier Halte coffee table, $690. Visit simons.com.



Nelson Coconut chair, $2,846.25. Visit store.hermanmiller.com.



Foshay bookcase, $1,199. Visit roomandboard.com.



Eames sofa compact, $4,987.50. Visit store.hermanmiller.com.

KATE MCENROE
NEW YORK

TIMELESS
TREASURES
FOR EVERY
OCCASION.

Mid Century Modern, Retro,
Atomic Cat, and Chinoiserie home goods,
apparel, personalized gifts, and more.

www.katemcenroeny.com

periodpicks

By **Ian McMaster**

Retro Retreat

Sit back, relax and let these retro outdoor pieces define your MCM backyard.

1. **Durresi Metal Mid Century 3-Piece outdoor furniture set,** $389.99. Visit worldmarket.com.
2. **Mabel Royal floral umbrella,** $675. Visit hazy-sunshine.com.
3. **The Al Fresco love seat cushion cover set in Elsa Stripe,** $299. Visit businessandpleasureco.com.
4. **Ultimate Patio Westcove 5-Piece round retro outdoor dining set in Red Gloss,** $529. Visit bbqguys.com.
5. **The Sling Chair in Rivie Pink,** $249. Visit businessandpleasureco.com.

CONSTRUCTION
REMASTERED.

ASK ABOUT OUR CASITA PACKAGES

760.531.4252 | SHIELDSRESIDENTIAL.COM

SHIELDS RESIDENTIAL
CONSTRUCTION REMASTERED

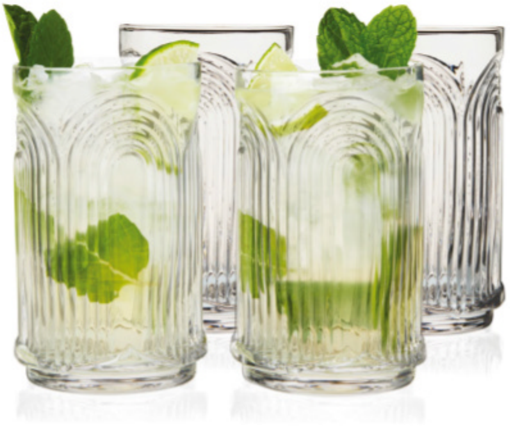
inseason

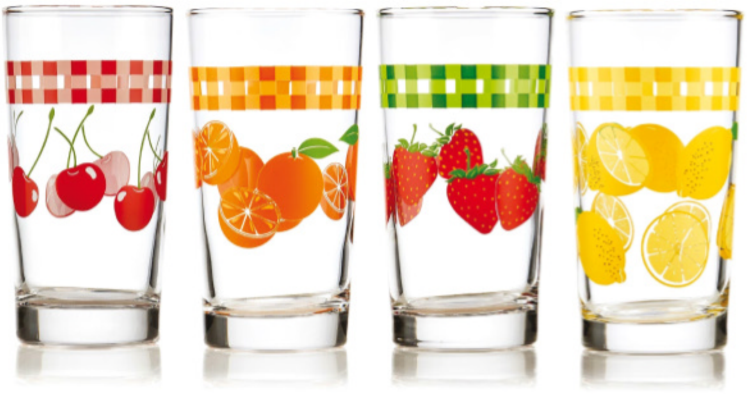
Bottoms Up!

Fun glassware to liven up any cocktail or dinner party.

By **Ian McMaster**

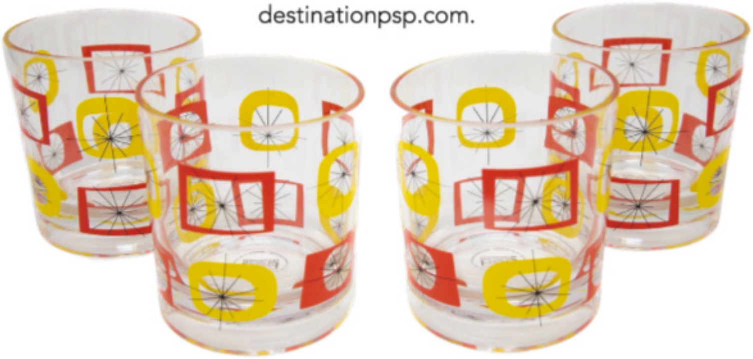
Beau highball glasses - Set of 4, $49.99. Visit viski.com.

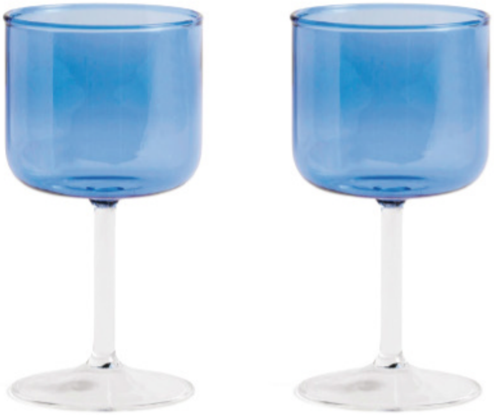




Libbey vintage juice glasses, 11 oz. - Set of 4, $34.99. Visit shop.libbey.com.

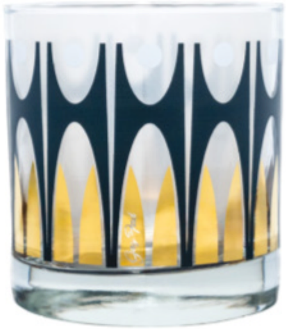
Atomic acrylic Old-Fashioned glass - Set of 4, $48. Visit destinationpsp.com.



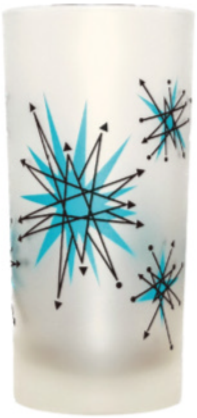


HAY Tint wine glasses - Set of 2, $40. Visit store.moma.org.

Umbra Black 11 oz. rocks glass, $21. Visit gayfadstudios.com.



Frosted Aqua Starburst 12.5 oz. beverage glass, $23. Visit gayfadstudios.com.



Cool
HOMES
SOLD HERE

Collecting

Brass Menagerie

These diminutive finds are big on vintage style.

Written and photographed by **Jickie Torres**

BRASS HAS BEEN USED in decorative objects since antiquity. But in the 1960s, it took a peculiar and charming form as shiny objets d'art. Small, often animal-shaped, figures became wildly popular decorative accents, continuing a trend that began in the Art Deco era. However, in the mid-century, their forms became simplified and stylized, just as everything else in modernist aesthetics.

Highly collectible and valuable examples can be found from artists like Walter Bosse, who became known for his signature chunky forms in black and gold brass. Simon Kops' designs spanned the other end of the spectrum; his animal metalwork was thin, wiry and minimal. Josef Hoffman's animals bore an earthy patina and were Rubenesque in their proportions yet lithe with their details. Companies like C. Jeré became known for using brass as a signature material in crafting animals in motion, such as a flock of birds in flight that appears to launch from the wall.

But the charm of this collectible may be in the ubiquity of them in their most humble and accessible form: the shiny, mass-produced versions that were displayed on the mid-century housewife's vanity or the advertising man's desk. They bear no stamps or maker's marks, yet whether as a mouse, a swan, a bull or a giraffe, they always succeed in putting a smile on your face. What more can we ask of something we select to adorn our interiors?

Howard Pyle
PAUL MANSHIP

Consign Today | Art + Design

We are currently accepting quality consignments of Mid-Century & Contemporary art, design, furniture, pottery, bronzes, jewelry, and more for our upcoming auctions.

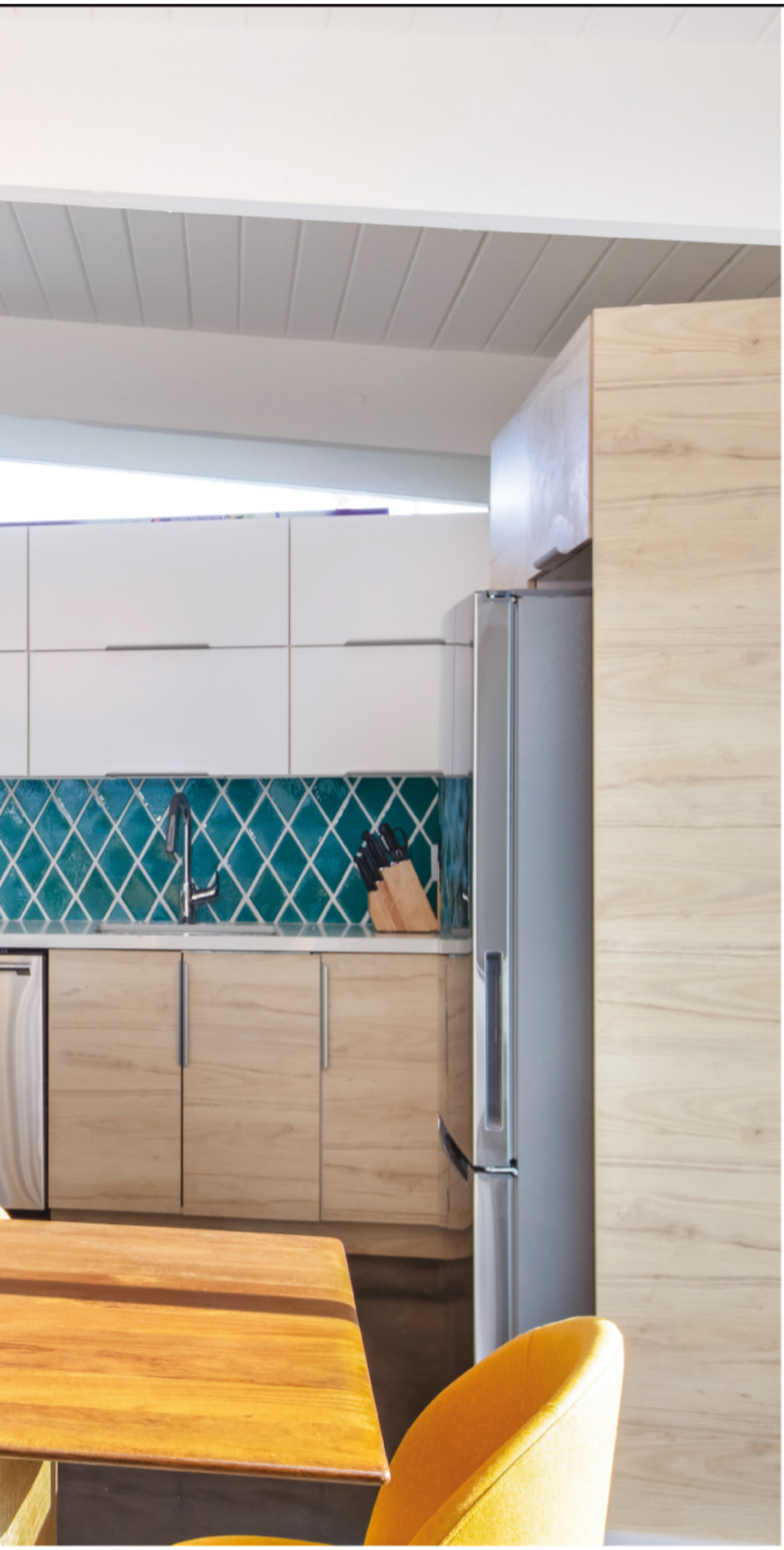
Auctions • Private Sales • Appraisals

We are a family-owned auction house delivering both world-class service and results for over 55 years.
For your free auction valuation, or for more information, please contact us at info@johnmoran.com.

JOHN MORAN
SINCE 1969
AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS

www.johnmoran.com · info@johnmoran.com · (626)-793-1833
bid live online · absentee · telephone | 145 East Walnut Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016

atomickitchens



Bright Ideas

Bursting with vibrant color, this kitchen is part of a larger total renovation of a 1959 Palm Springs home that doubles as an Airbnb vacation rental.

By **Laura Shimko**
Photography courtesy of **Sukkha Interior Design**

THERE IS NOTHING QUITE LIKE a pop of color mixed with the clean lines, bold and unique shapes and sleek finishes of Mid Century Modern design. For designer Sarah Bronstein of Sukkha Interior Design, color is magic. With a passion for all things interior design and over 10 years of experience, she is also a real estate broker based in Western North Carolina.

Though she's located on the opposite coast, when the owners of this Palm Springs home reached out to Sarah for help in a complete renovation, she eagerly took on the challenge.

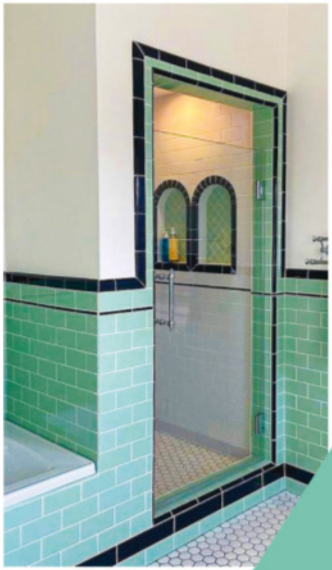
THE PALETTE PLAYS THE MOST EYE-CATCHING ROLE IN THE OVERALL KITCHEN DESIGN. "WE CHOSE TEAL AND YELLOW AS OUR FOCUS COLORS FOR THE HOME," SARAH SAYS. "WE LIKED THE IDEA OF A TEAL KITCHEN, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE FOUND THE LOUD YELLOW TILES WE PUT IN THE ENTRYWAY. I CHOSE A SIMPLE SUBWAY TILE TO KEEP THE DESIGN MINIMAL WITH CLEAN LINES SINCE WE WERE USING SUCH A BOLD COLOR."

B&W Tile

Vintage Original Since 1949

1949-2024
75th Year
Anniversary

Colors
We Have Those!!



- Original vintage and historic colors
- Custom colors & Color Matching available
- Manufactured in North Hollywood California
- Nationwide shipping
- Ask about our commercial projects

www.bwtile.com
310-538-9579
info@bwtile.com

OPPOSITE: AS WITH ANY KITCHEN DESIGN, STORAGE OPPORTUNITIES ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE DESIGN. "WE THOUGHT THROUGH THE STORAGE NEEDS EARLY ON AND MADE SURE WE HAD ENOUGH CABINETS AND SHELVING TO ACCOUNT FOR EVERYTHING," SARAH EXPLAINS. "WE OPENED UP THE ORIGINAL KITCHEN WALL AND REPLACED IT WITH A PENINSULA BAR TO MAKE THE SPACE FEEL MORE OPEN AND STILL DIRECT THE FLOW OF MOVEMENT INTO THE KITCHEN FROM THE REST OF THE MAIN SPACE."

PANDEMIC & PLANNING

Envisioning the property as a sunny and fun home to be rented out as an Airbnb vacation rental between uses, the owners purchased the home at the end of 2020 and soon took the plunge into demolition work. Overwhelmed by the endless array of choices and design questions as well as the supply challenges surrounding the pandemic, the homeowners called on Sarah from across the country to help them.

"I worked with them on the renovation and selected all the fixtures, furniture and décor for the home," Sarah says.

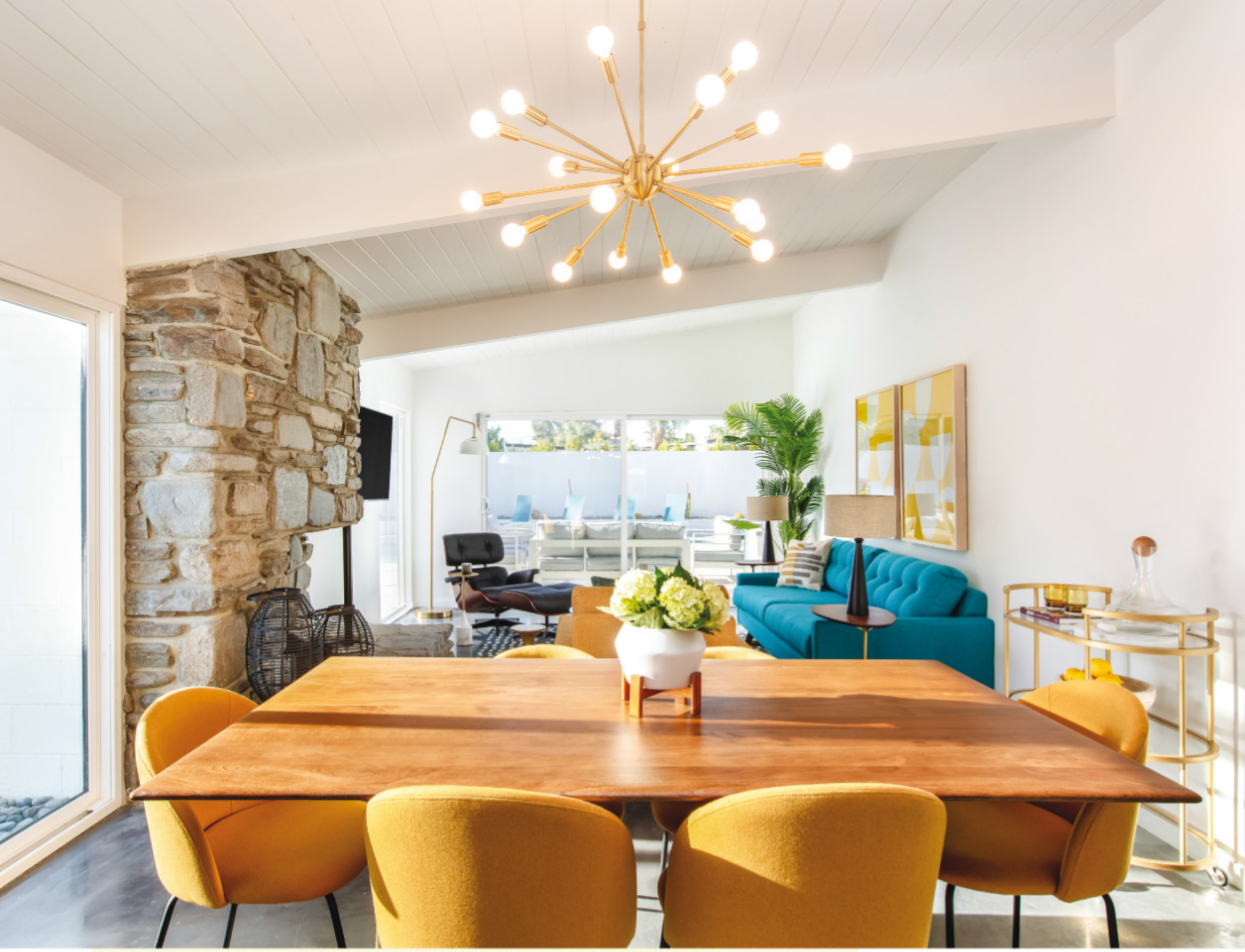
The changes made to the home were fairly extensive, including a rework of the backyard and pool footprint as well as a garage-to-casita conversion. In the kitchen, modern updates were made to create space and connection instead of the original closed-off design. "We opened up the wall and replaced it with the peninsula to open to the dining and living room," Sarah says. "It was a box and very dated."

MID MOD FLAIR

While the only original elements in the home were the architectural structure and the fireplace, Sarah wanted to keep the sparkle and spirit of 1960s Palm Springs in the redesign.

ALDEN B. DOW
HOME & STUDIO
abdow.org • 866.315.7678

Explore this mid-century modern oasis of nature, architecture, and inspiration.
Tours Available Tues-Sat • Midland, MI



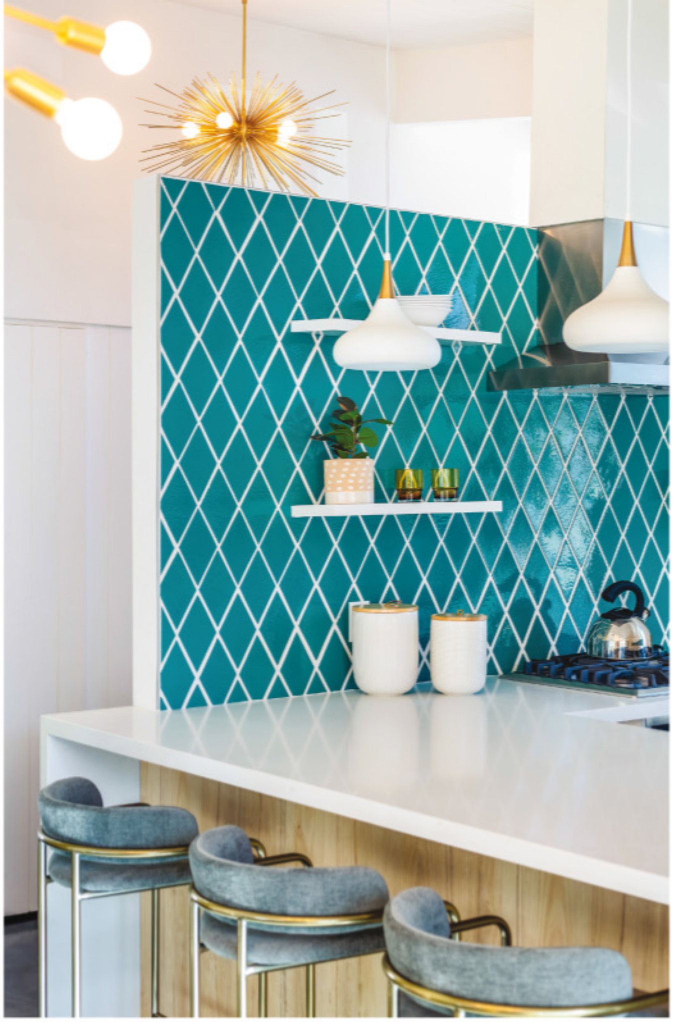
SLANTED CEILINGS AND A FIREPLACE WERE PART OF THE ORIGINAL HOME DESIGN, ANCHORING THE CONTEMPORARY UPDATES FIRMLY IN MID MOD STYLE. SARAH'S VISION FOR THE WHOLE HOME DESIGN WAS TO FEEL CONNECTED AND COHESIVE. "IT, LIKE THE REST OF THE SPACE, BALANCES BOLD, MID MOD STYLE WITH CLEAN, TIMELESS DESIGNS," SHE SAYS. LARGE FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS ALLOW NATURAL LIGHT TO POUR INTO THE SPACE.

/ INTENTIONAL DESIGN /

In many mid-century homes, the kitchen footprint is smaller than today's spaces. While typically vacation and rental homes don't need as much kitchen space as a primary residence, there are still challenges in designing the most optimal use of space for both style and function. Sarah Bronstein offers the following tips to remedy this challenge.

- **OPTIMAL & OPTICAL.** Working in a smaller space means you need to find the right balance between form and function. "Be intentional with storage and open shelving, which gives the illusion of more space than upper cabinets," Sarah says.
- **FOCUS ON FINISHES.** Create an enhanced design by choosing design elements that do more for the space. "Try to use finishes that elevate, like a tile backsplash," Sarah advises.
- **VERTICAL VISION.** Tighter spaces demand creativity to cram in all the functional use you can without sacrificing the look and feel. "Use all the vertical space available, like open shelving or cabinets that go to the ceiling," Sarah says.
- **LET IN LIGHT.** To keep your space from feeling small, cramped and dingy, look for the light. "Make sure you consider light sources, both natural as well as fixtures," Sarah says.

OPEN SHELVING IS A GREAT OPTION FOR VACATION AND RENTAL HOMES AS IT PROVIDES A VISUAL BREAK OF DENSE CABINETRY BUT STILL OFFERS A PRACTICAL STORAGE SOLUTION FOR MOST-USED ITEMS. PLAYING AGAINST THE BOLD BACKSPLASH, THESE FLOATING SHELVES CREATE THE ILLUSION OF A LARGER SPACE.



"We knew we wanted to do a modern take on mid-century with bright colors and bold patterns," Sarah says. She collaborated with the homeowners to select the two primary colors—teal and a rich yellow—which are repeated throughout the home. Sarah also made sure to incorporate elements that are quintessentially mid mod. "Every choice we made, from selecting light fixtures to furniture to a rug or piece of art, was with intention to pay homage to the mid-century design history of 1960s Palm Springs," she says. "For example, Sputnik chandeliers, retro wall treatments and clean timeless lines."

Vibrant and bold, this kitchen is a feast for the eyes as well as a thoughtful nod to its roots. ⚛

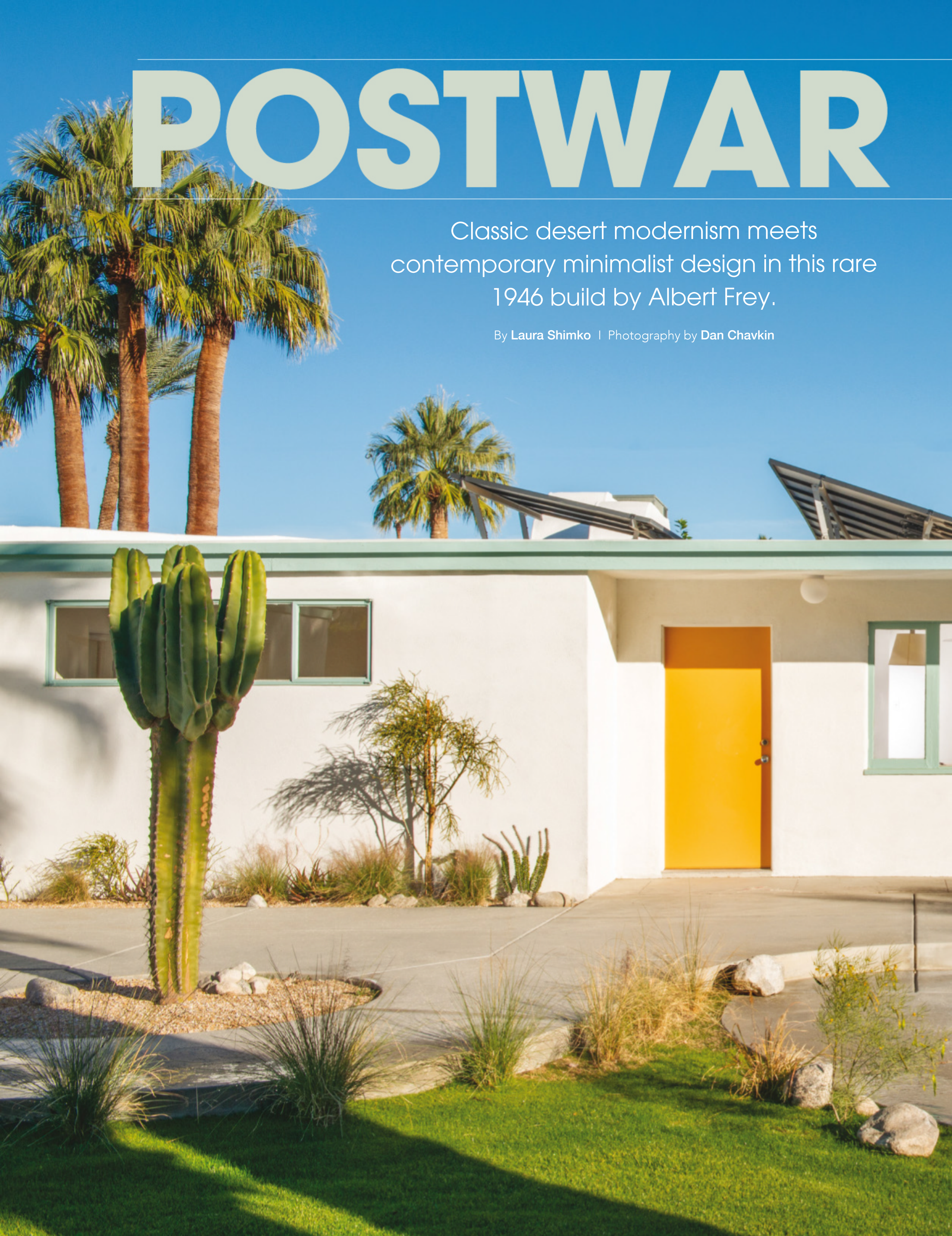
SEE RESOURCES, PAGE 88

WE LOVE COLOR.
Design: Stussi Luque Design
Photography: Cy Gilbert
clayhaus
MODERN TILE
HANDCRAFTED TILE MADE IN PORTLAND, OR
www.clayhaustile.com | order direct at 503.928.3076

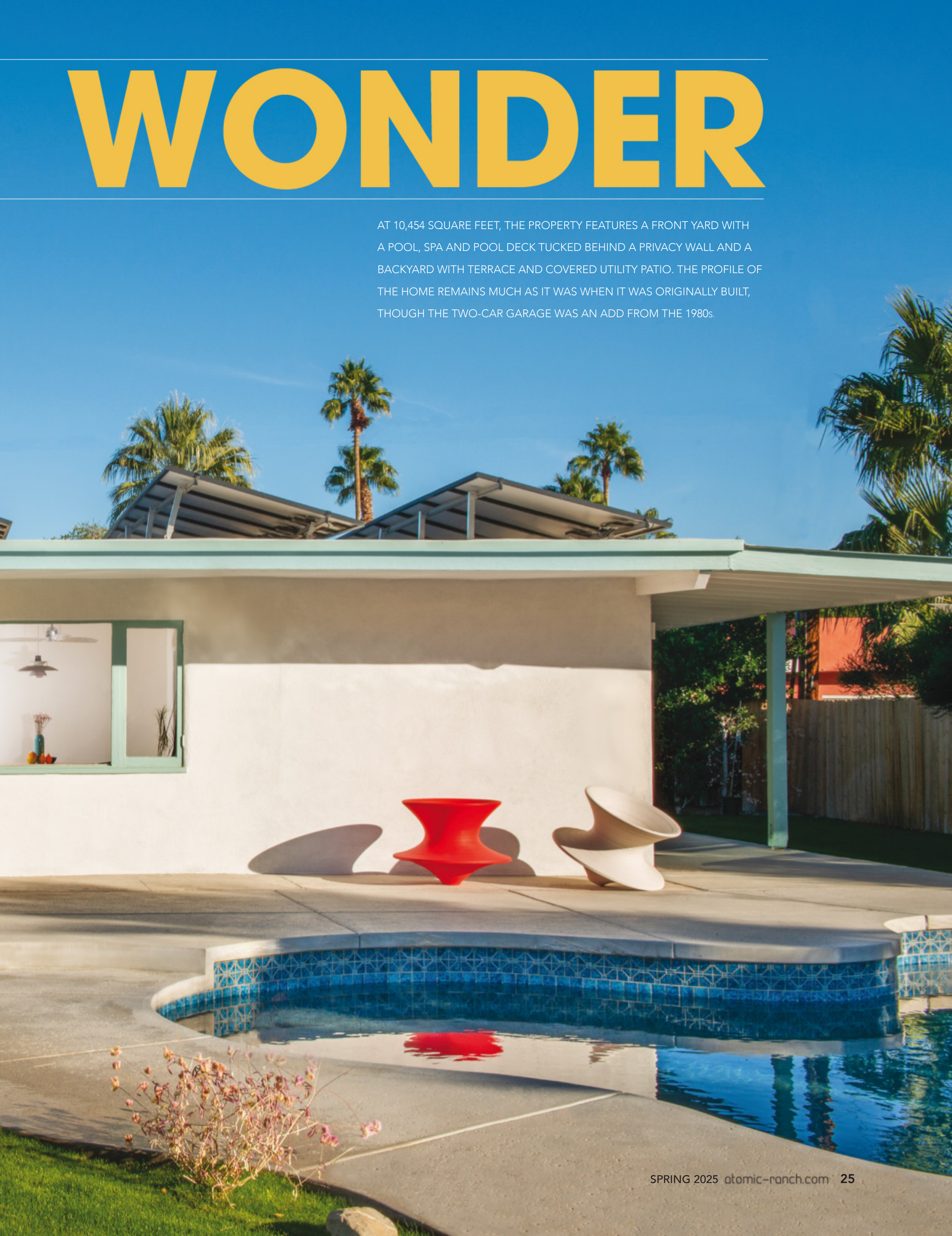
POSTWAR

Classic desert modernism meets contemporary minimalist design in this rare 1946 build by Albert Frey.

By **Laura Shimko** | Photography by **Dan Chavkin**



WONDER



AT 10,454 SQUARE FEET, THE PROPERTY FEATURES A FRONT YARD WITH A POOL, SPA AND POOL DECK TUCKED BEHIND A PRIVACY WALL AND A BACKYARD WITH TERRACE AND COVERED UTILITY PATIO. THE PROFILE OF THE HOME REMAINS MUCH AS IT WAS WHEN IT WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT, THOUGH THE TWO-CAR GARAGE WAS AN ADD FROM THE 1980s.

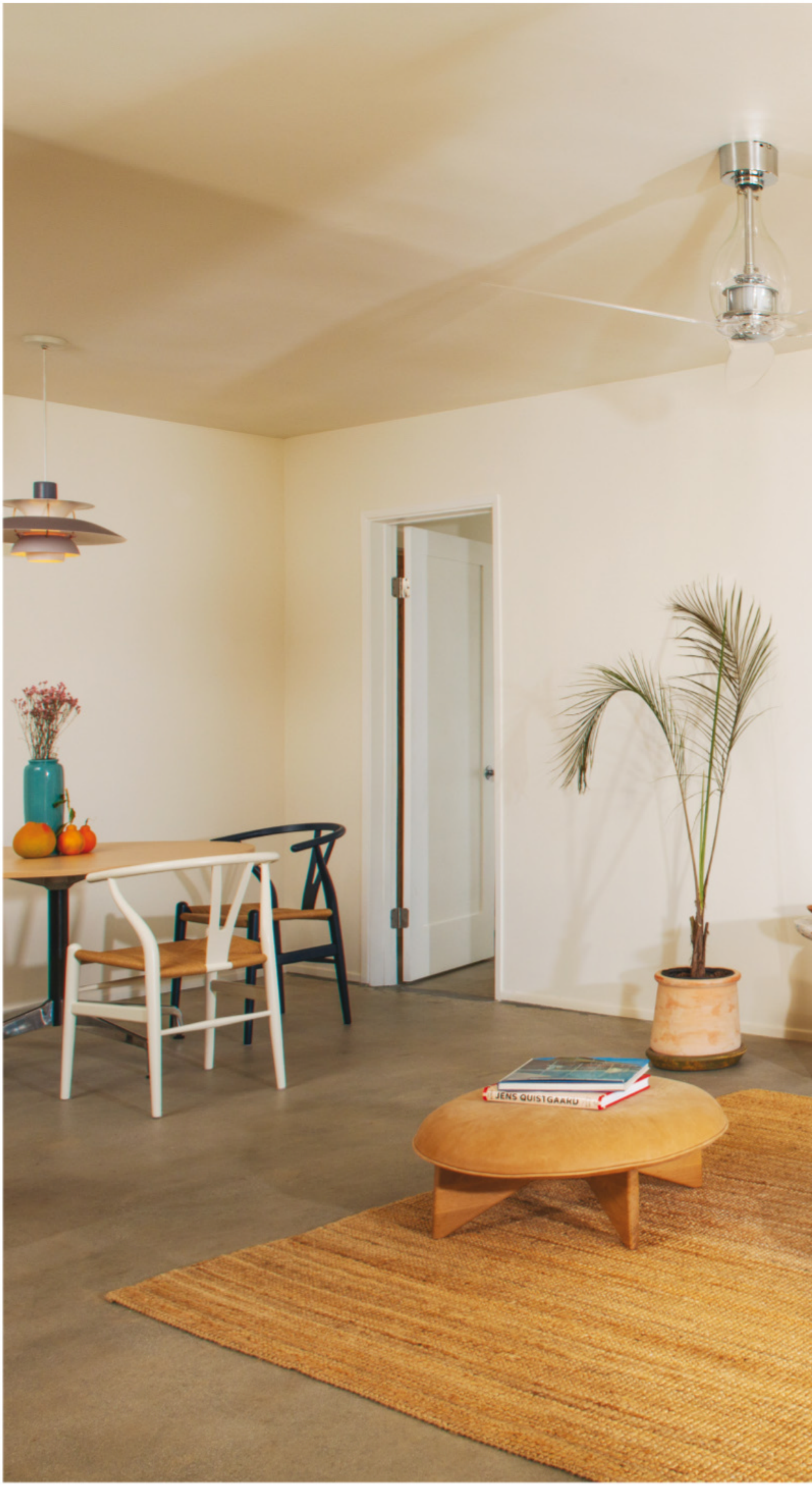
LEFT: THE UNCONVENTIONAL LAYOUT OF THE FRONT EXTERIOR OF THE HOME WITH THE OPEN POOL AREA GIVES THE PROPERTY A UNIQUE VIBE. THE MARIGOLD DOOR AND TEAL TRIM POP AGAINST THE SIMPLE WHITE EXTERIOR PAINT, WHILE PALM TREES, CACTI AND VARIOUS OTHER DESERT FOLIAGE PROVIDE A COOL, LAID-BACK WELCOME.

> “Throughout the housing tract, the standardized ground floor plan was mirrored or twisted around so that none of the houses are the same and the street facades all look different,” Lilian says. “This was emphasized also through the different placement of the houses on the site.”

ONE OF THE most fascinating aspects of architecture is the role geography and climate play in shaping the layout, look and structure of a building. With its extreme temperatures and rugged, breathtaking vistas, Palm Springs is one of the most celebrated gems of the Mid Century Modern movement and the location of much ingenuity by renowned architects and designers.

In 1945, architects Albert Frey and John Porter Clark worked with developers Sallie Stevens and Culver Nichols to create a modern, affordable housing tract for war workers in Bel Vista. While most of the other homes have been remodeled in different styles, this home, recently listed by Lilian Pfaff and Nate Cole of Modern California House, stands with some updates but mostly resembling its original layout and style. With a passion to promote well-designed homes, Lilian and Nate share what makes this house special and how it exemplifies the congruence of modern and contemporary living.

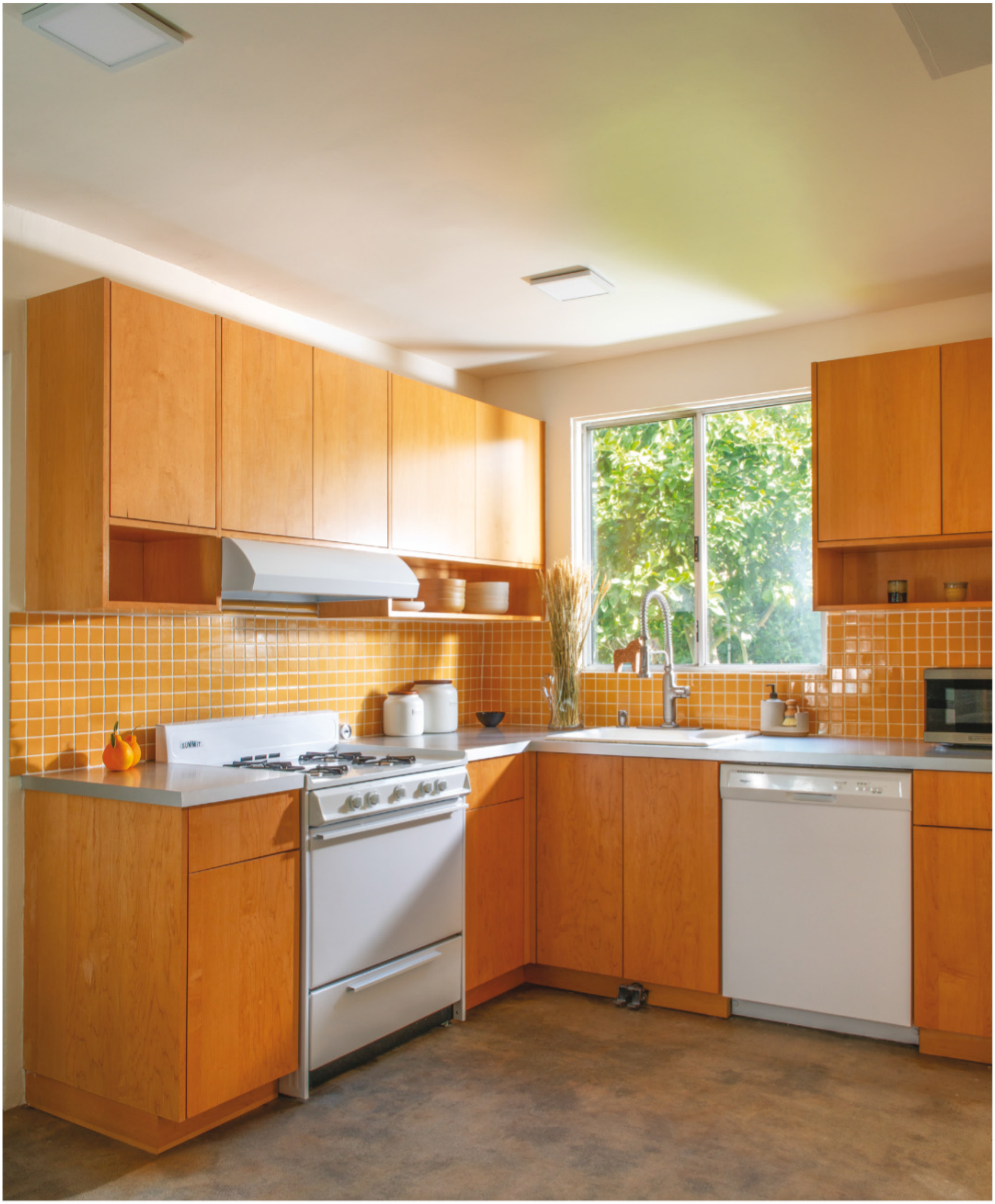
MIXING MINIMALIST AND MID MOD STYLES, THE LIVING ROOM OF THE HOME PROVIDES THE PERFECT CANVAS FOR BOTH VINTAGE AND REPRODUCTION PIECES TO SHINE. SIMPLE AND COZY, THE ROOM IS FULL OF NATURAL LIGHT SUPPLIED BY LARGE WINDOWS OFFERING A GLIMPSE OF THE MOUNTAINS AND PALM TREES OUTSIDE. HONED CONCRETE FLOORS HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE HOME PROVIDE THE PERFECT FOUNDATION.



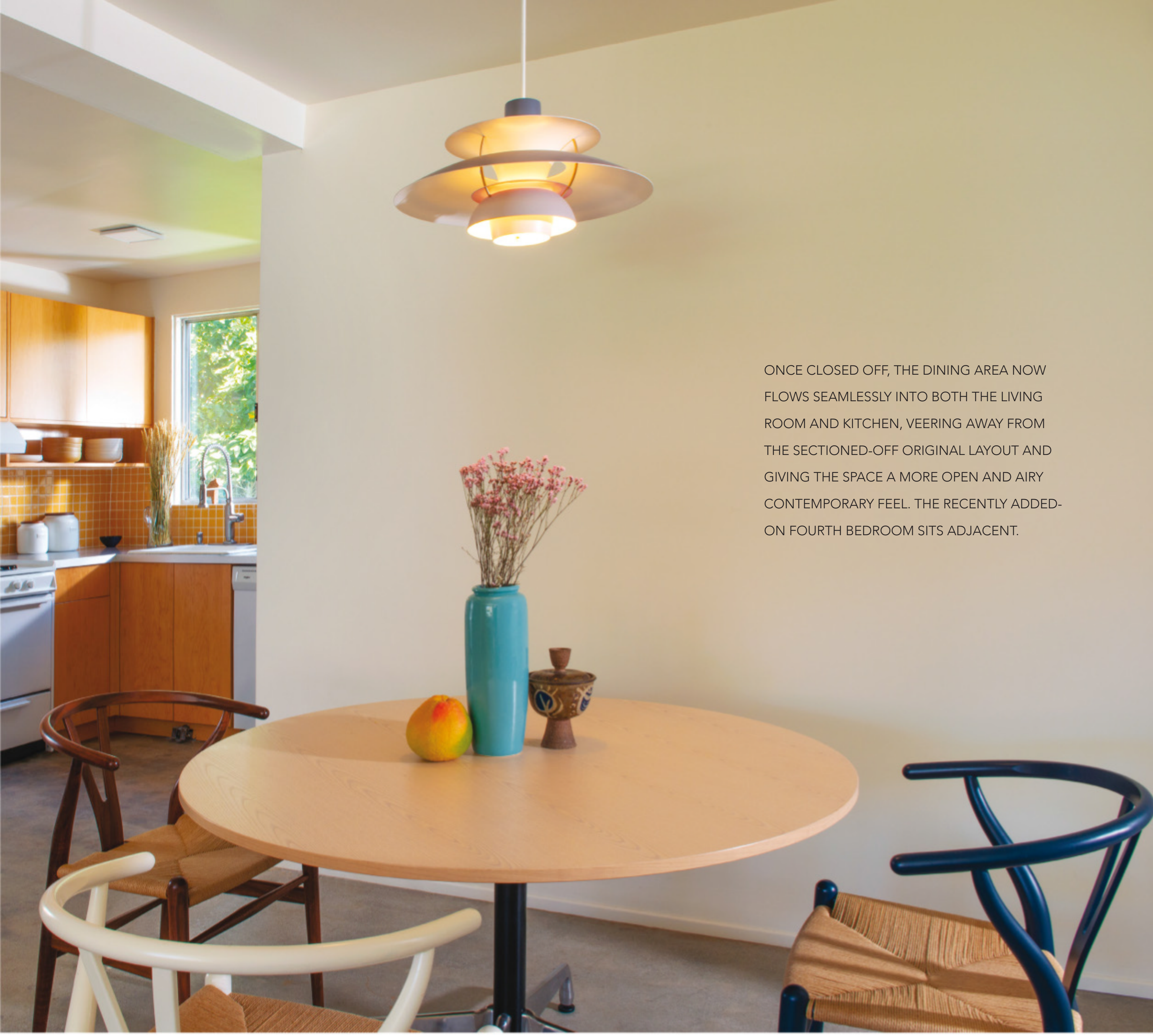
POSTWAR BOOM

As with many Mid Century Modern homes, this one is part of a larger tract of 15 houses built to fulfill the housing crisis at the end of World War II. The concept of affordable “minimum dwellings” first appeared in Europe at the end of World War I, illustrated by the exhibition “The Dwelling for Minimal Existence” in 1929 Frankfurt, Germany. “The Bauhaus in Germany as well as CIAM (Congrès internationaux d'architecture moderne) at its founding conference in La Sarraz, Switzerland, in 1928 dedicated their architectural studies to this question how to design affordable houses, which resulted in prefabrication, prototypical floor plans, mass production and all kinds of different housing types, with the rowhouse as outstanding example,” says Lilian, who is also an architectural historian and adjunct professor.

While European architects struggled with limited space, architects carrying the torch in post-World War II America dealt with limited materials and an immediate need for homes for soldiers wanting to start life afresh. All of these influences resulted in the creation of this flat-roofed, originally three bedroom, 1,100-square-foot home.



ALUMINUM COUNTERTOPS ARE A RECENT UPDATE AND SET OFF THE MID MOD VIBE IN THE KITCHEN. THE SUBTLE AND SLEEK CABINETRY AND BACKSPLASH ADD WARMTH AND FUNCTIONAL STORAGE. THE LAYOUT OF THE KITCHEN IS ORIGINAL EXCEPT FOR THE REMOVAL OF A WALL TO ALLOW FULL OPENING TO THE DINING AREA. "THE POSITION OF THE HALF-OPEN KITCHEN BETWEEN THE BEDROOMS AND THE DINING ROOM MAKES IT ACCESSIBLE FROM TWO SIDES AND MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE OPEN KITCHEN OF ALL THE FOLLOWING MID-CENTURY HOUSES," LILIAN SAYS.



ONCE CLOSED OFF, THE DINING AREA NOW FLOWS SEAMLESSLY INTO BOTH THE LIVING ROOM AND KITCHEN, VEERING AWAY FROM THE SECTIONED-OFF ORIGINAL LAYOUT AND GIVING THE SPACE A MORE OPEN AND AIRY CONTEMPORARY FEEL. THE RECENTLY ADDED-ON FOURTH BEDROOM SITS ADJACENT.

THE ART OF ARCHITECTURE

As is often the case with tract homes, the design of each house in Bel Vista followed strict architectural aesthetic rules. Within this framework, Frey built in certain features modified to the context of Palm Springs, taking great care to mind the hot desert sun and often harsh winds. "A long driveway led to the cantilevered roof over the otherwise open porch, which wrapped around to the main entrance door into the living room to keep the house cool from the blazing morning sun," Lilian explains. "Seven doors opened from the inside to the outside so that every room was accessible from the garden, which also allowed for cross ventilation and then later for very straightforward additions."

However, in the pursuit of the practical, Frey did not neglect the aesthetic. While tract homes can often feel cookie-cutter and contrived with their uniform appearance, Frey took care to change the layout of each of the 15 homes to create a visually diverse architectural landscape.

"Throughout the housing tract, the standardized ground-floor plan was mirrored or twisted around so that none of the houses are the same and the street facades all look different," Lilian says. "This was emphasized also through the different placement of the houses on the site."

A CLERESTORY WINDOW ALLOWS THE BRIGHT DESERT SUN TO SPILL INTO THIS PRIMARY BEDROOM AND OFFER A PEEK AT THE SLEEK ROOFLINE OF THE GARAGE.

CONTEMPORARY UPDATES

While most of this house remains the same as its 1946 conception, over the decades previous owners have made various modifications to accommodate changing times and needs. "Frey anticipated the need for future additions to the original plan, allowing homeowners to enlarge the house on three sides without changes to the interior layout," Lilian says.

Expanding the floor plan to 1,418 square feet, the original open carport is now an additional bedroom, while a built-out patio was transformed into another bathroom. "A covered patio retains the shade of the original extended eaves," Lilian says. The layout largely remains the same, though a wall has been removed between the kitchen and other living spaces to create a more contemporary open look and feel. Renovations of the bathrooms and kitchen have been thoughtful and with the intent to keep true to the roots of the home. "Furthering Frey's ideas on harnessing natural elements for comfortable living, solar panels now generate electricity for the home," Lilian says.

Though produced in the utilitarian setting of postwar California, Frey's design manages to transcend mere functionality and stands as a testimony of Modernism's ability to bridge the divide between practical and inspirational. As architectural historian Barbara Lamprecht puts it, "The property exemplifies Frey's ability to synthesize the humility of everyday needs with the fresh and creative interpretation of Modernism, even in this modest house."

ABOVE: ONE OF THE HALLMARKS OF FREY'S DESIGN FOR THE HOUSES IN THIS TRACT IS THEIR ABILITY TO BE SHAPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF GROWING FAMILIES LATER ON. "IT WAS A SMALL HOUSE FOR PEOPLE COMING BACK FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR TO START A FAMILY," LILIAN SAYS. "THE FLOOR PLAN IS SO INTELLIGENT THAT THE HOUSE FEELS SPACIOUS AND CAN ALSO BE ENLARGED IF THE FAMILY GROWS."

BELOW, LEFT: JUST OFF THE DINING AREA, THIS CARPORT-TURNED-BEDROOM BOASTS A GENEROUS GLASS DOOR THAT OPENS TO THE TERRACE AND POOL DECK. BELOW, RIGHT: PART OF THE 1980S ADDITIONS, THIS BATHROOM WITH ITS PERIOD-APPROPRIATE PALE BLUE GRID TILE HONORS MID MOD STYLE WITHOUT SACRIFICING CONTEMPORARY NECESSITIES.

In the pursuit of the practical, Frey did not neglect the aesthetic.

All About ALBERT

For many mid mod enthusiasts, Albert Frey needs no introduction. Renowned for his pioneering "desert modernism" architectural style, Frey is responsible for much of how we perceive Palm Springs today. Originally from Switzerland, he immigrated to New York during the Great Depression and was hired by architect Lawrence Kocher, with whom he designed the legendary Aluminaire House.

After spending a couple of years in Palm Springs doing work for a different firm, Frey settled in the city in 1939. He collaborated for two decades with John Porter Clark, a fellow architect, and then decided to start his own practice. His work spans from public buildings such as City Hall to numerous residential houses and tracts across the city. Without a doubt, Frey's importance in shaping how we understand Modernism specifically within the context of Palm Springs remains undiminished to this day.

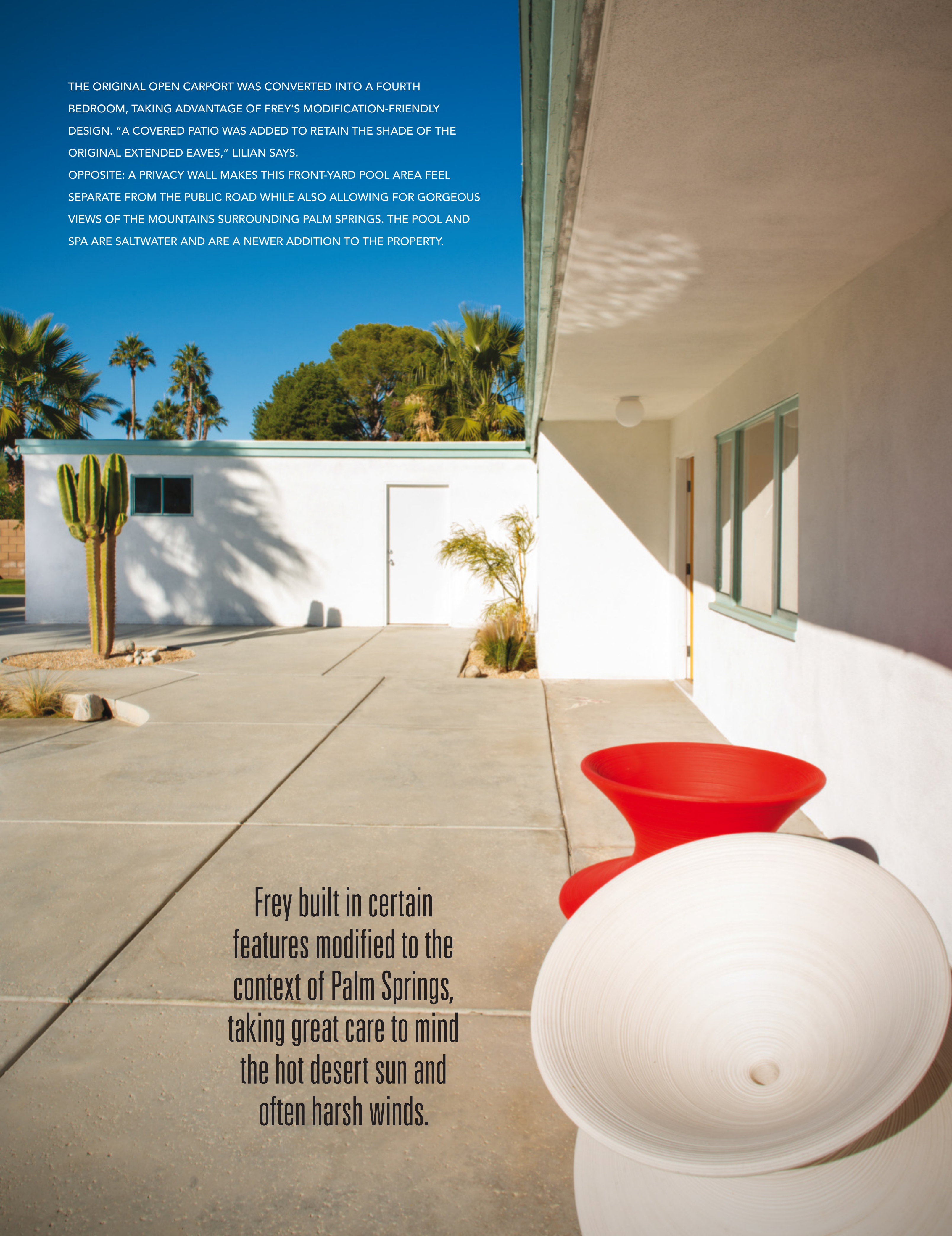
Take a drive around town to eye these other iconic properties by Albert Frey:

The Raymond Loewy House (1946)
600 West Panorama Road
Frey designed this home around a boulder pile for industrial logo designer Loewy, even incorporating one large boulder into the pool area.

Palm Springs City Hall (1952-1957)
3200 E Tahquitz Canyon Way
Designed in concert with Clark and Chambers and local architectural firm Williams and Williams, Frey's most notable public construction boasts eye-catching breeze blocks, sleek lines and a showstopping entrance featuring a cutout roof through which three palm trees tower.

Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Valley Station (1963)
1 Tramway Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262-1828
In another collaboration with Clark, Chambers, Williams, Williams and Williams, this design was inspired by New England covered bridges and boasts of an abundance of glass windows to allow for spectacular glimpses of the mountain.

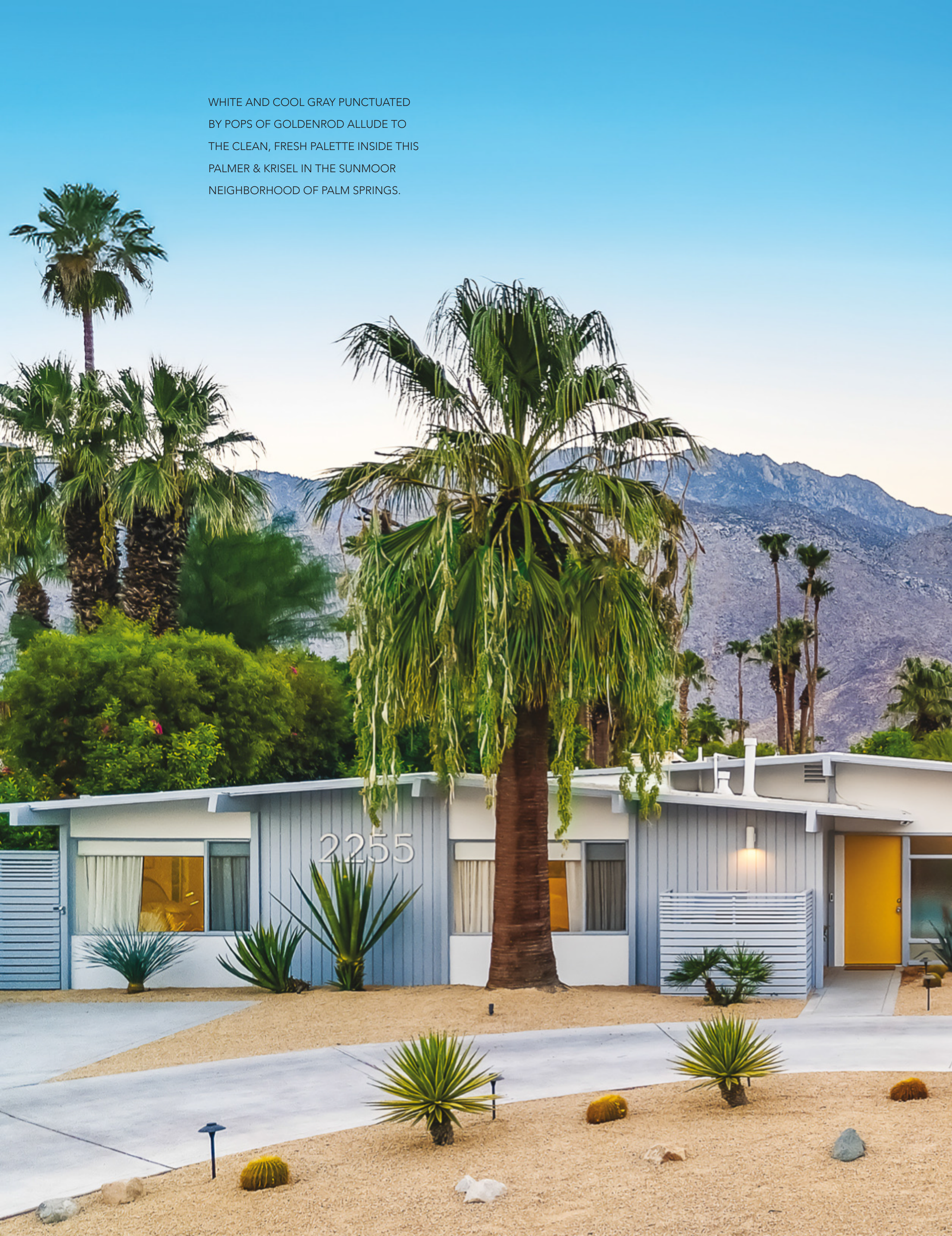
Tramway Gas Station, aka the Palm Springs Visitor Center (1965)
2901 N Palm Canyon Drive
Originally an Enco gas station and later transformed into the Visitor Center, this iconic building boasts of an unmistakably mid mod roof design: the hyperbolic paraboloid.



THE ORIGINAL OPEN CARPORT WAS CONVERTED INTO A FOURTH BEDROOM, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FREY'S MODIFICATION-FRIENDLY DESIGN. "A COVERED PATIO WAS ADDED TO RETAIN THE SHADE OF THE ORIGINAL EXTENDED EAVES," LILIAN SAYS.

OPPOSITE: A PRIVACY WALL MAKES THIS FRONT-YARD POOL AREA FEEL SEPARATE FROM THE PUBLIC ROAD WHILE ALSO ALLOWING FOR GORGEOUS VIEWS OF THE MOUNTAINS SURROUNDING PALM SPRINGS. THE POOL AND SPA ARE SALTWATER AND ARE A NEWER ADDITION TO THE PROPERTY.

Frey built in certain features modified to the context of Palm Springs, taking great care to mind the hot desert sun and often harsh winds.

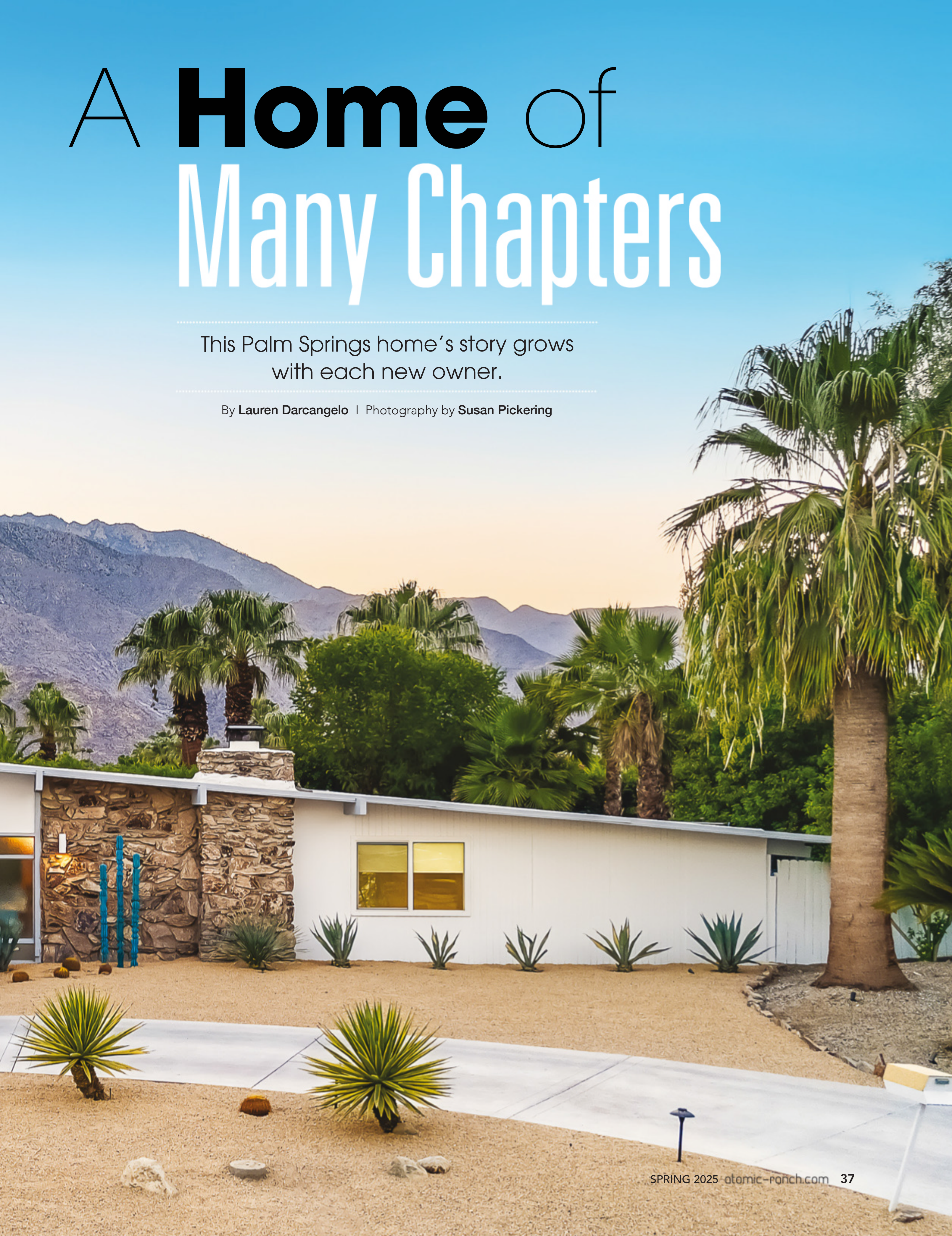


WHITE AND COOL GRAY PUNCTUATED BY POPS OF GOLDENROD ALLUDE TO THE CLEAN, FRESH PALETTE INSIDE THIS PALMER & KRISEL IN THE SUNMOOR NEIGHBORHOOD OF PALM SPRINGS.

A Home of Many Chapters

This Palm Springs home's story grows with each new owner.

By **Lauren Darcangelo** | Photography by **Susan Pickering**



The mark of a well-maintained mid-century home is its ability to live multiple lives, stories and aesthetics through various owners. For Santa Monica residents Matthew and Perry Helderman, their home on Orchid Street is one of those stories.

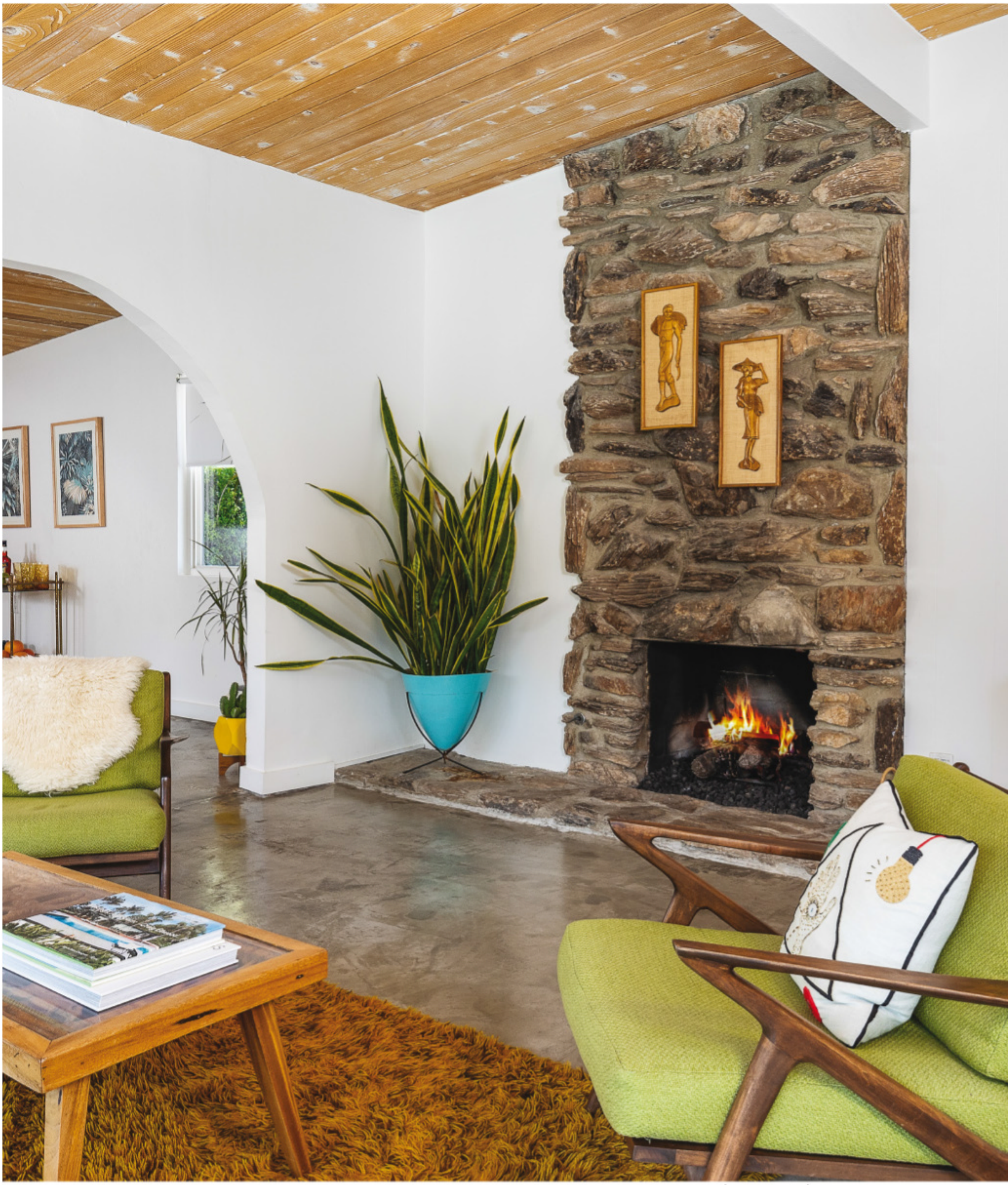
"We love design, art, history and architecture, and Palm Springs was always really a retreat for both of us as we're building our careers and our life out in LA," Matthew explains. With his career in the film industry and Perry's in ceramics and interior design, weekend escapes to the desert became a regular respite and the couple quickly started learning more about the history and architecture in the area. "We toyed with the idea of getting a house in the desert for a few years," Matthew says.

THE PERFECT FIT

While it wasn't the first home they made an offer on, this 1958 house, designed by Palmer & Krisel architects and built by the Alexander Construction Company, immediately captured their attention. "When we first walked into the house, it was impressive given the open floor plan," Perry says. Since they were looking for their second home and a place they'd eventually list on as a vacation rental, the couple didn't want to undertake a major remodel or something that would require a lot of work.

“We always wanted to keep with the mid-century design but add our own special eclectic taste to the house.”

THE HOME’S ORIGINAL FEATURES INCLUDE THE CEMENT FLOORING, THE WOOD-PANELED CEILINGS AND A STUNNING STONE FIREPLACE. “ANOTHER OF MY FAVORITE PIECES THAT CAME WITH THE HOUSE ARE THE TWO WOODEN FIGURINES THAT HANG ABOVE THE FIREPLACE,” PERRY POINTS OUT.



THIS SPACE WAS ORIGINALLY THE GARAGE. A PREVIOUS OWNER'S REMODEL USED IT TO EXTEND THE LIVING ROOM. "I THINK ONE OF OUR FAVORITE PIECES FROM THE PREVIOUS OWNERS WAS THE COFFEE TABLE WITH THE CARVED WOOD," PERRY SAYS. (OPPOSITE AND BOTTOM): ON TOP OF IT SITS A SMALL CHESS SET THE COUPLE FOUND AT THE PALM SPRINGS FLEA MARKET. "THAT'S ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS IN THE HOUSE," PERRY SAYS.

Fortunately for them, the home was being sold fully furnished and they liked everything inside. "For me, it was actually really surprising to find a home where I actually wanted to purchase the furniture," Perry says. "The previous owner had done a really good job." The aesthetic was simple and straightforward, with a few furnishings the couple loved. Previous remodels made changes that benefited the couple's lifestyle, like turning the garage into an extended main living space. "Any of the remodeling that had been done was very simple," Perry says. "It was kind of a blank slate as far as the furniture additions."

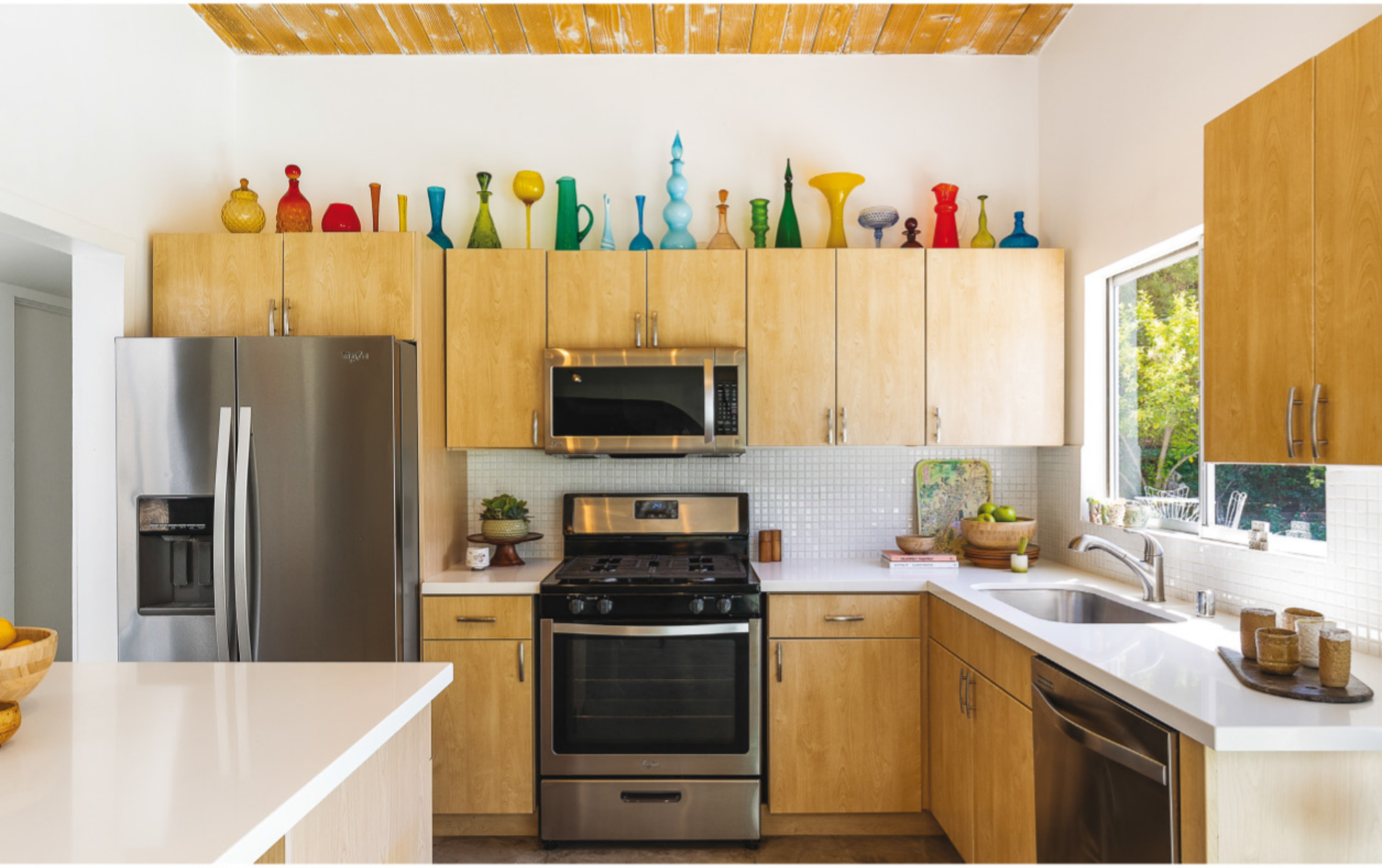
THE MID-CENTURY CANVAS

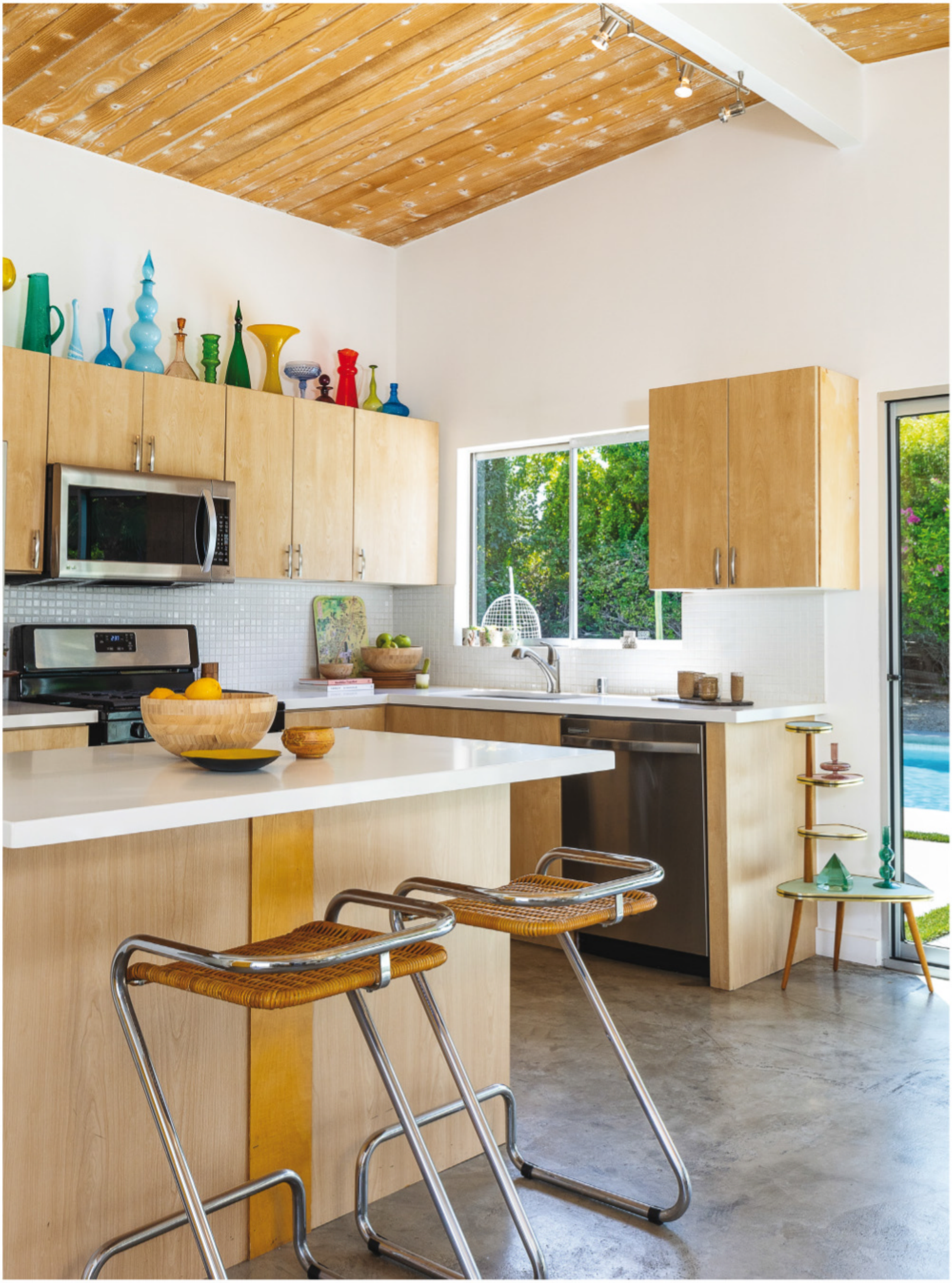
Purchasing the home during the pandemic made it a frequent escape and an opportunity for the couple to take what had been started and make it their own. "We always wanted to keep with the mid-century design but add our own special eclectic taste to the house," Perry explains. Many of the home's original features had been preserved, such as the stone fireplace and the wood-paneled ceilings—the perfect backdrop to add finds from the local markets, antiques shops and galleries. "For me, as a designer, it's always about the thrill of finding the next exciting piece, and I know Matt and I together share that as a couple," Perry says. "We're always on the hunt."

INSPIRED BY THE PARKER HOTEL

In the kitchen, Perry and Matthew used this passion to create a tribute to one of their favorite places: the Parker Palm Springs hotel. "If you've walked around the Parker, you've probably seen that open area by Norma's with its collection of mid-century glass in different sizes, shapes and colors," Matthew says. Inspired, the pair began hunting for their own collection.

The colorful glass pieces they've discovered over the years found their home in the kitchen, where a previous owner's remodel kept the space simple and fresh. "We ended up with around 20 or 30 pieces," Matthew says. "And while we're taking a few of our favorites with us, most will stay in the home to give it that extra pop of color and keep that Palm Springs vibe." Displayed on a high kitchen shelf, the glass adds vibrancy and character—a legacy the Helderman's will pass to the next owners.





“WE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT ABOUT REMODELING THE KITCHEN,” PERRY SAYS, “BUT HONESTLY, JUST KEEPING IT SIMPLE AND THEN ADDING THE GLASS FELT LIKE ENOUGH OF JUST KEEPING THE MID-CENTURY STYLE OF SIMPLICITY, COLOR AND CLEAN LINES AND SHAPES.”

(TOP) ADJACENT TO THE POOL, THE PRIMARY BEDROOM FEATURES AN OWL ART PIECE BY PERRY'S MOM. "ALMOST ALL OF THE ART IN THE HOME IS BY MY MOM," PERRY SAYS. "SHE WAS CLEARING OUT HER ART STUDIO IN CONNECTICUT WHEN WE OWNED THE HOME, SO WE INCORPORATED SO MUCH OF IT INTO THE HOUSE AND IT FITS PERFECTLY WITH THE POPS OF COLOR."

TRANSFORMING THE OUTDOOR SPACE

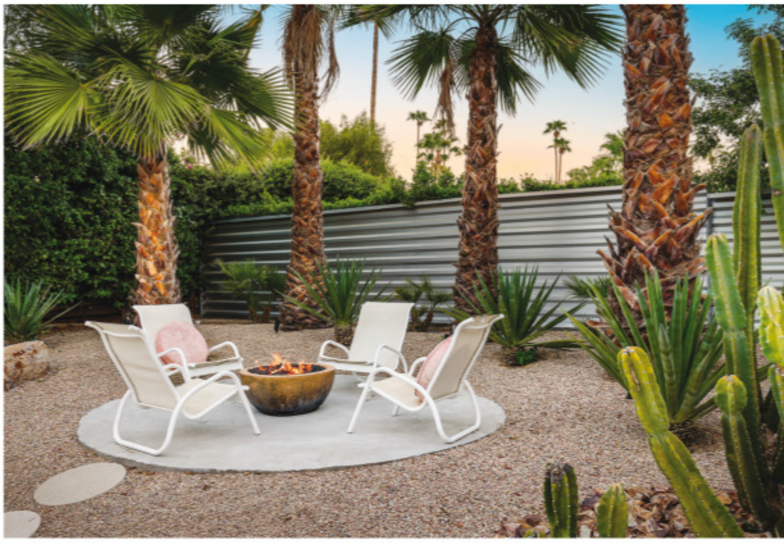
Perhaps the couple's most dramatic impact on the home is the backyard remodel. "We wanted it to feel like an oasis and separate the areas to make them more intimate," Perry says. "It's definitely something we're proud of." The couple also added five large palm trees, expertly using landscaping to create cozy gathering spots around the pool and fire pit. This goal of intimacy extended to their complete pool and hot tub overhaul. "We redid the pool and added recycled glass tile from Portugal to the outside of the hot tub. The idea was to make it a little jewel box, a destination within the space," Perry says.

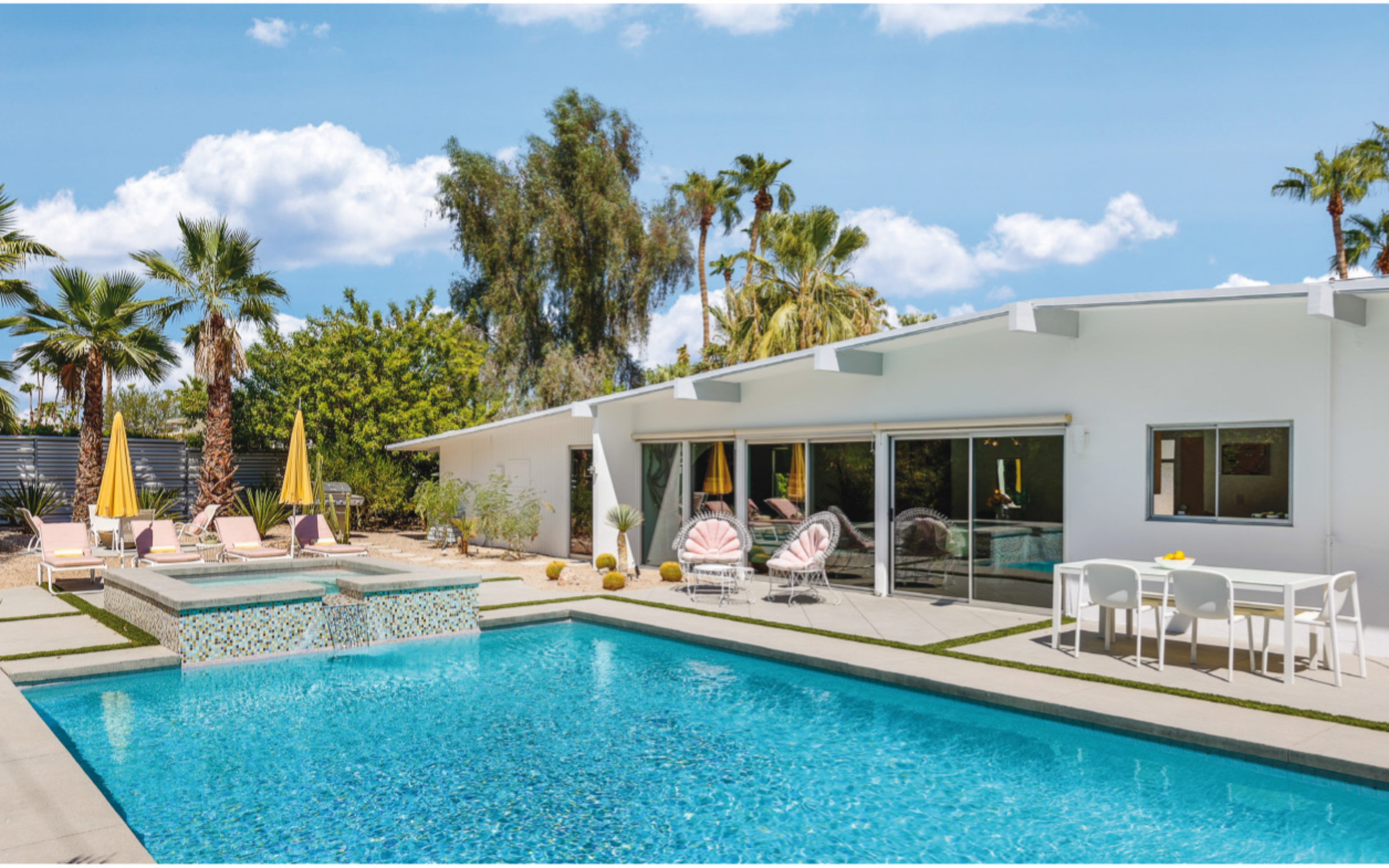
PASSING ON A LEGACY

The arrival of their first son, along with life taking them in new directions, prompted the couple to sell the home. While they know they'll always go back to Palm Springs, both Perry and Matthew feel a sense of bittersweet closure. "We had so many amazing memories here with friends and family, so it feels like we're passing the torch to the next." Matthew reflects. For them, this sale is part of the cyclical nature of homeownership, a chance to pass on a space that's been enriched by their time, vision and memories. And as they bid farewell to their desert retreat, they know they're leaving behind a legacy for someone else to build on. ❁

SEE RESOURCES, PAGE 88

(BELOW) THE THREE-BEDROOM HOME IS RELAXED AND WARM THROUGHOUT, A PERFECT WEEKEND GETAWAY WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY. THE BOLD POPS OF COLOR AS SEEN HERE WERE SOMETHING THAT DREW THE COUPLE TO THE HOME FROM THE BEGINNING. "THERE WERE SOME REALLY FUN, BOLD COLORS. I REALLY FELT LIKE I HAD STEPPED BACK IN TIME," PERRY SAYS.





(ABOVE) "WE COMPLETELY REDID THE POOL AND THE HOT TUB AND ADDED RECYCLED GLASS TILE FROM PORTUGAL TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE HOT TUB," PERRY SAYS. "THE IDEA WAS TO KIND OF MAKE IT A JEWEL BOX." THE FINISHED AREA IS A DREAMY DESERT ESCAPE.

(TOP) THE BACKYARD OVERHAUL IS THE BIGGEST CHANGE THE COUPLE MADE TO THE HOME. THEIR GOAL WAS TO CREATE AN OASIS WITH DISTINCT AND SECLUDED AREAS LIKE THIS ONE. "THE SPACE IS REALLY LARGE AND THERE WAS AN AREA THAT REALLY JUST HAD AN OPEN GRAVEL BEHIND WHERE THE FIRE PIT WAS WITHOUT MUCH LANDSCAPING, SO WE ADDED FIVE PALM TREES IN THAT AREA," MATTHEW SAYS.

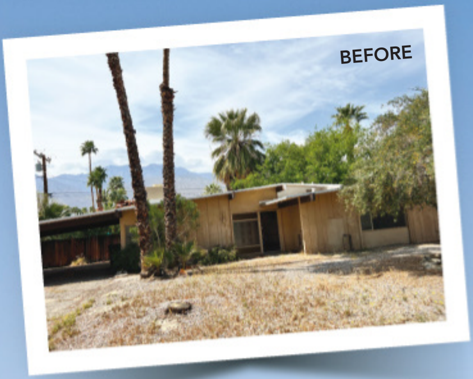
Looking for Your Own Palm Springs Legacy?

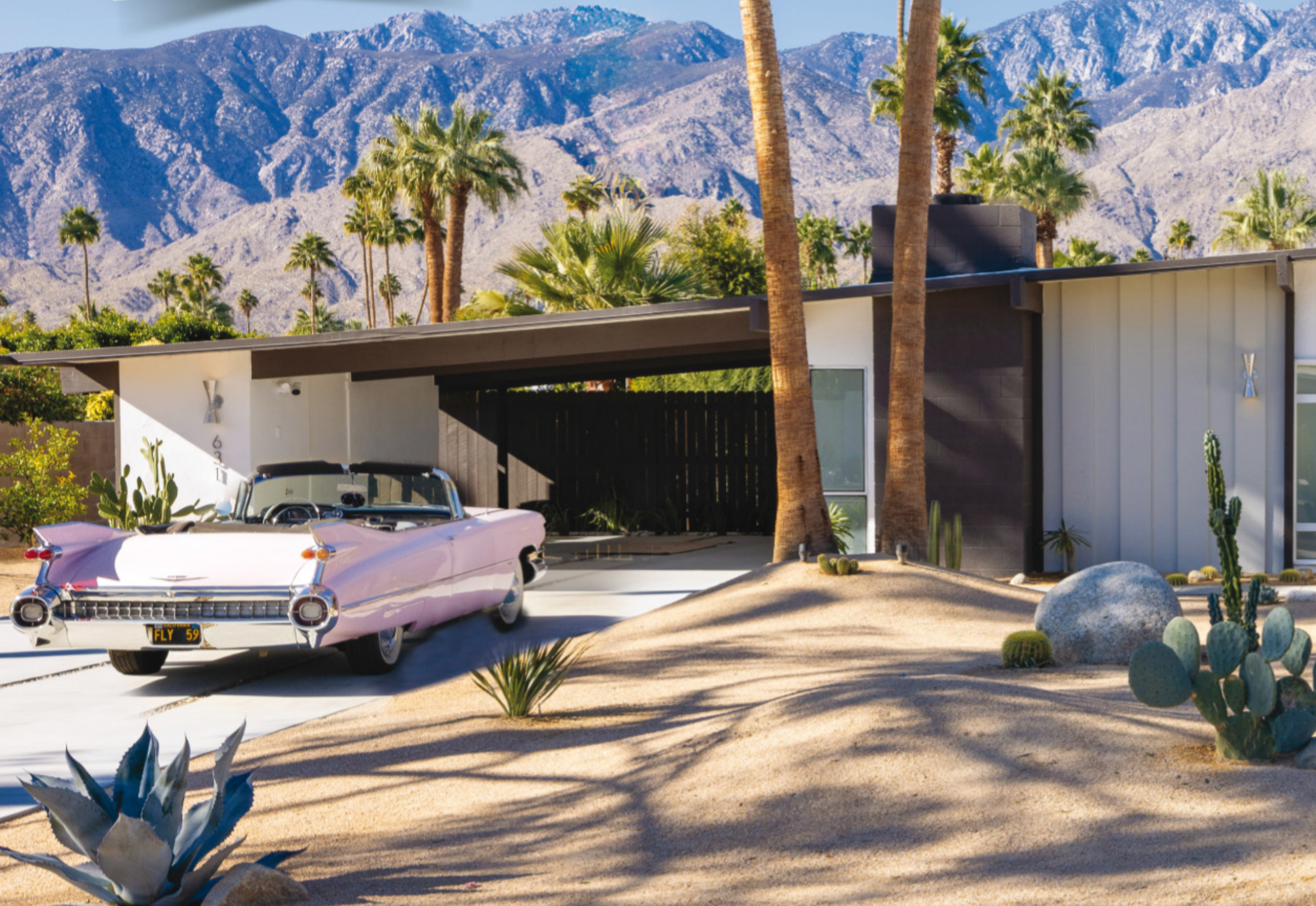
Here are some tips for buying and selling from Erbe + Blackham realtor Maureen Erbe, who sits on the board of Palm Springs Modernism Week.

1. **Know what you're looking for.** The mid-century homes in Palm Springs are highly sought after, but it's important to have your priorities straight so you don't get caught up in something that won't work for you long-term. "There's a magic in these mid-century homes that just fits with the landscape here," Maureen says.
2. **Don't rush the process.** "Palm Springs has a deep appreciation for this era of architecture and it's one of the few places where the demand for mid-century style is consistently strong," Maureen explains. It's important that whether you're buying or selling, you take the time to either find your dream spot or get your house ready to sell for the best offer. Realtors like Erbe + Blackham provide staging services to get your house ready for the market. "We can help clients see what others might miss. Often, a property just needs some thoughtful updates to unlock its true value," she says.
3. **Keep an eye on the details.** Preserving or enhancing authentic mid-century features can be a huge selling point if you're not necessarily looking to buy a forever home. "Look for the original details—those are what make these homes so special," Maureen says. Elements like clerestory windows, breeze blocks and period-appropriate landscaping not only add value but capture the essence of Palm Springs' mid-century allure.

THE HOUSE IS ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING EXAMPLES OF PALMER & KRISEL'S WORK THAT HAS NOT BEEN EXTENSIVELY ALTERED OVER THE YEARS. AT 1,371 SQUARE FEET, IT EMBODIES THE BEAUTY OF MODERNIST SIMPLICITY WITH ITS LOW-SLUNG ROOFLINE AND AN OPEN INTERIOR WITH FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS.

BEFORE: IN 2022, DANIELA AND VICTOR GROZDICH WERE ON THE HUNT FOR A SECOND HOME IN THE DESERT. ONE DAY, A NEW LISTING POPPED UP WITH A SINGLE PHOTO OF A VERY RUNDOWN 1957 KRISEL ALEXANDER HOUSE THAT NEEDED A TON OF WORK. THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT THEY HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR—AND THE BEST PART WAS THAT THE HOUSE SEEMED UNTOUCHED FROM THE ORIGINAL. NO ONE HAD ENCLOSED THE CARPORT OR ADDED SQUARE FOOTAGE LIKE MOST OTHER HOUSES FROM THIS ERA.

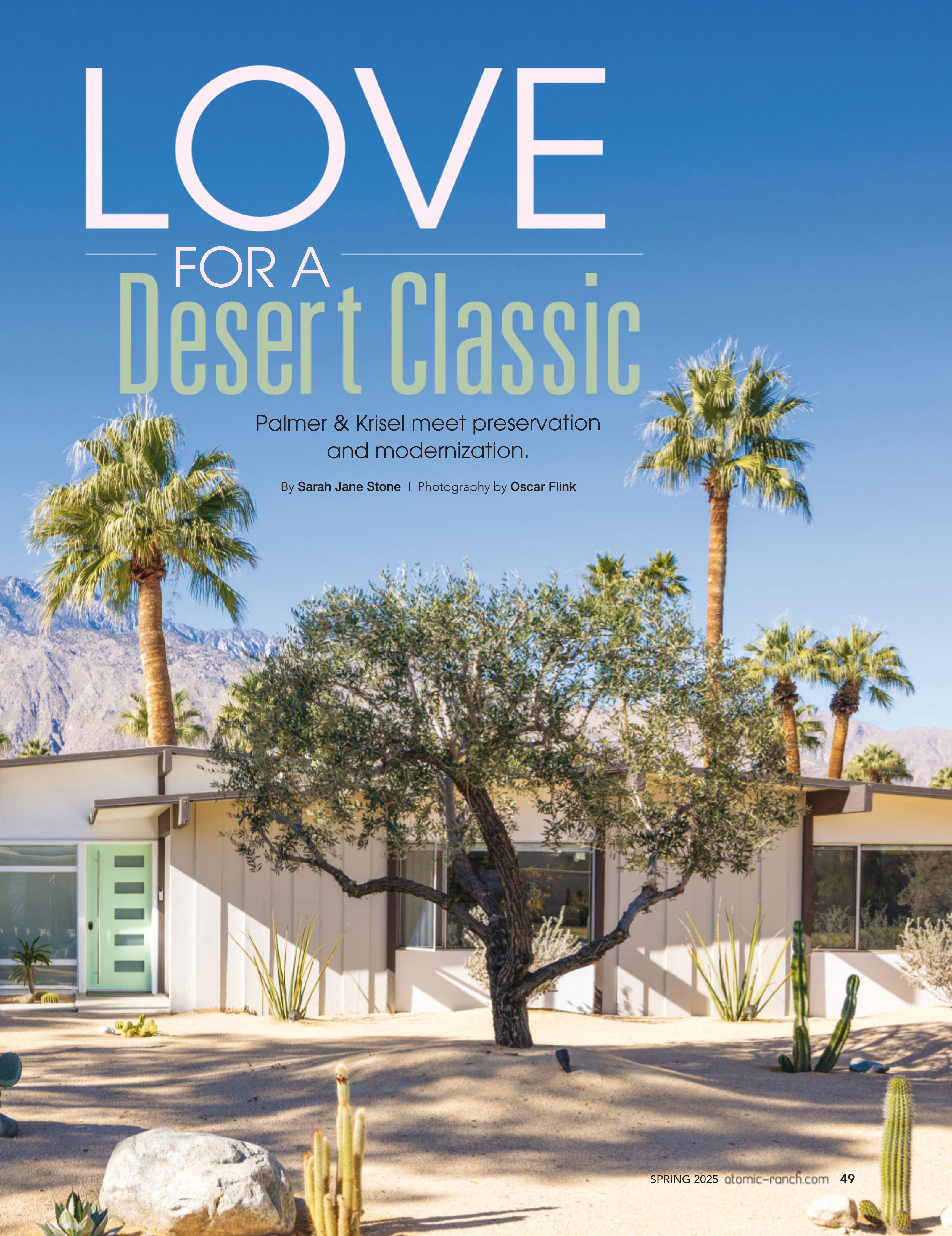




LOVE FOR A Desert Classic

Palmer & Krisel meet preservation and modernization.

By **Sarah Jane Stone** | Photography by **Oscar Flink**



SIMPLE YET REFINED, THE LIVING SPACE IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT THAT ISN'T FUSSY AND CAN ADAPT EASILY FOR GUESTS.

Tucked away in the iconic Little Beverly Hills neighborhood of Palm Springs sits a once-neglected Palmer & Krisel home. Today, it is a lovingly restored testament to their understated brilliance and architectural genius.

Designed in 1957 and originally built by the Alexander Construction Company, this desert gem found new life thanks to the passion and dedication of architect Daniela Grozdich and builder Victor Grozdich. Purchased in 2022 as a second home for the couple and their two young sons, Luca and Milo, the family spent the next year meticulously preserving the home's original spirit while introducing modern touches that align with today's design sensibilities.

MOVIE MAGIC MEET-CUTE

Daniela and Victor's connection to mid-century architecture runs deep. Over the years, the couple has explored Palm Springs' architectural treasures. They fell in love with the iconic designs of William Krisel and the Alexander Homes, and it wasn't long before the couple began dreaming of owning and restoring their own slice of architectural history.

"I remember walking past a rundown Palmer & Krisel home years ago in Little Beverly Hills and joking to my mom, 'That's the one I'd love to bring back to life,'" Daniela recalls. "It felt like an impossible dream at the time, but little did I know we would one day make it a reality."

Fast forward five years and the opportunity finally appeared. They spotted a listing for a dilapidated 1957 Krisel Alexander house in its original form—untouched by any major renovations. "It was everything we had been searching for," Victor says. "No one had enclosed the carport, no additions had been made—it was the perfect blank slate."

Despite its condition, they were undeterred. The couple made an offer on the house without even seeing it in person, confident that they could restore it to its former glory. When they arrived in Palm Springs to see the house for the first time, Daniela had an epiphany. It was the exact house she had commented on all those years ago. With that, their journey to bring the home back to life began.

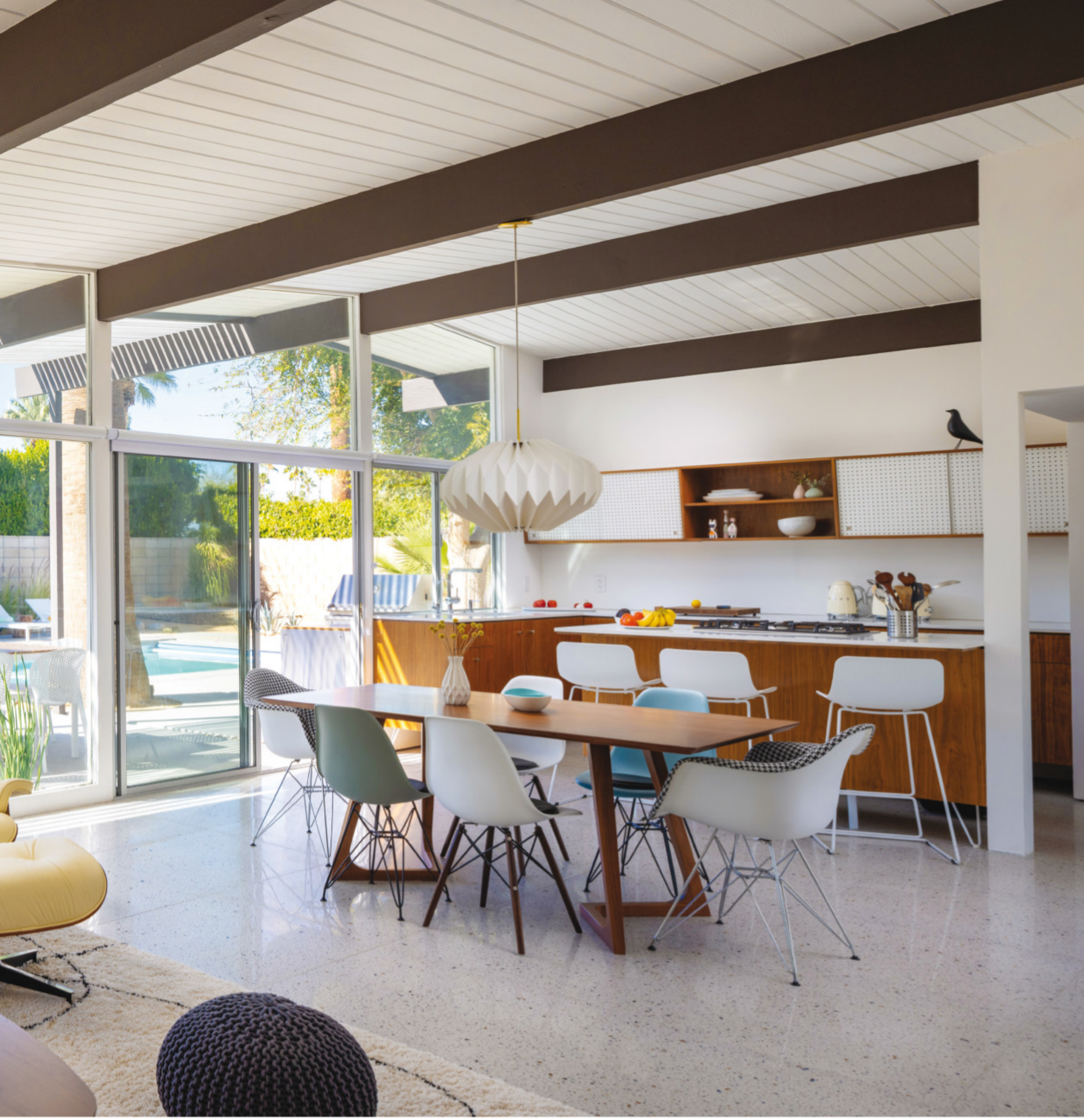
MATERIAL MATTERS

Victor and Daniela's approach to the renovation was rooted in respect for the home's original design while imagining how a mid mod home might be interpreted today. The home was built to feel spacious despite its modest 1,371 square feet. Not wanting to add or make major structural changes, the duo had a lot of work ahead of them.

ABOVE: CONSIDERING THE PREVIOUSLY DILAPIDATED STATE OF THE HOME ITSELF, IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT THE BACKYARD WAS OVERGROWN AND WILD, WITH MATURE TREES THAT HADN'T BEEN TRIMMED IN DECADES. THERE WAS NO POOL OR LANDSCAPING—JUST MOUNTAINS OF LEAVES. BELOW: "IT'S NOW THE PERFECT PLACE TO RELAX AND ENTERTAIN, WITH A VIEW OF THE MOUNTAINS THAT FEELS LIKE IT'S PART OF THE LANDSCAPE," VICTOR SAYS OF THE BACKYARD.

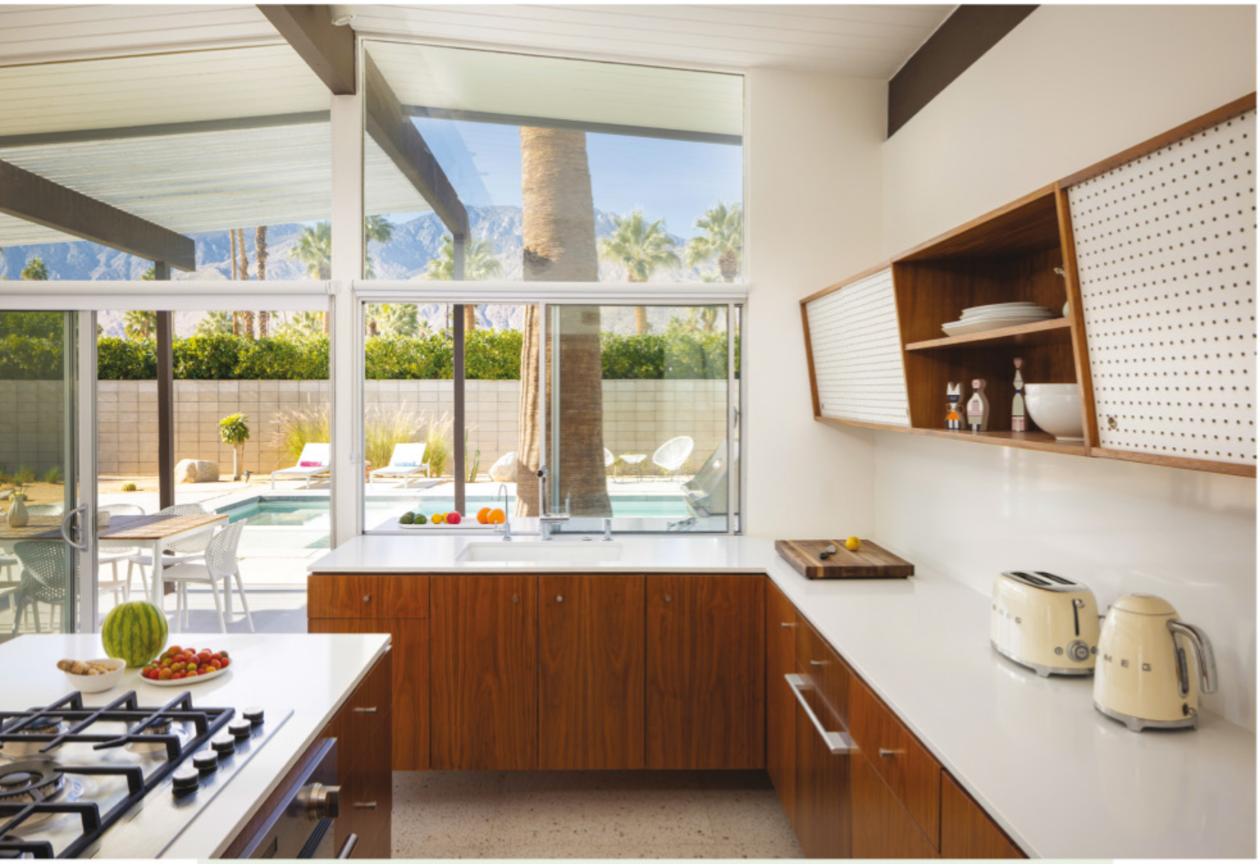
"We didn't want to recreate the 1950s exactly but rather think about what choices a modernist architect would make in the present day," Daniela explains. "We wanted to preserve the soul of the house while updating it for contemporary living."

The renovation was led by Daniela, who designed the interiors, landscaping and hardscaping, while Victor took on the role of general contractor and personally handled all the glasswork—a skill he honed over the years. Key design elements like walnut and pegboard kitchen cabinets, terrazzo tiles and hairpin legs are nostalgic nods to Krisel's original interiors but are paired with contemporary materials that modernize the home without sacrificing its charm.



"WE USED JUST ONE TYPE OF TERRAZZO TILE IN THE ENTIRE HOUSE, INCLUDING THE FLOORS AND SHOWERS," DANIELA SAYS. "WE WANTED A CLEAN AND SIMPLE LANGUAGE THAT CREATES A NICE FLOW THROUGHOUT THE HOME."

> "We didn't try to replicate the original exactly. We wanted to bring **Krisel's language** into the 21st century while maintaining the essence of his work."



Cooking Up Cool Design

Daniela and Victor's kitchen has undergone a stunning transformation that honors the original design while introducing some essential modern functionality.

The original kitchen layout, though full of character, was cramped by an awkward fridge placement and a tall cabinet next to the sink, making the space feel tight and workflow inefficient. For Daniela and Victor, the goal was not to replicate the past but to imagine how a modernist architect would approach that same kitchen today.

"We thought about what choices a modernist architect would make now, incorporating new technologies while staying true to the home's original spirit," Daniela says.

The new design is clean and uncluttered. The fridge, a stacked washer and dryer, and pantry are cleverly concealed behind walnut panels, keeping the space tidy and streamlined. The Grozdichs carefully considered how every inch of the space could be made functional while preserving the home's open, airy flow.

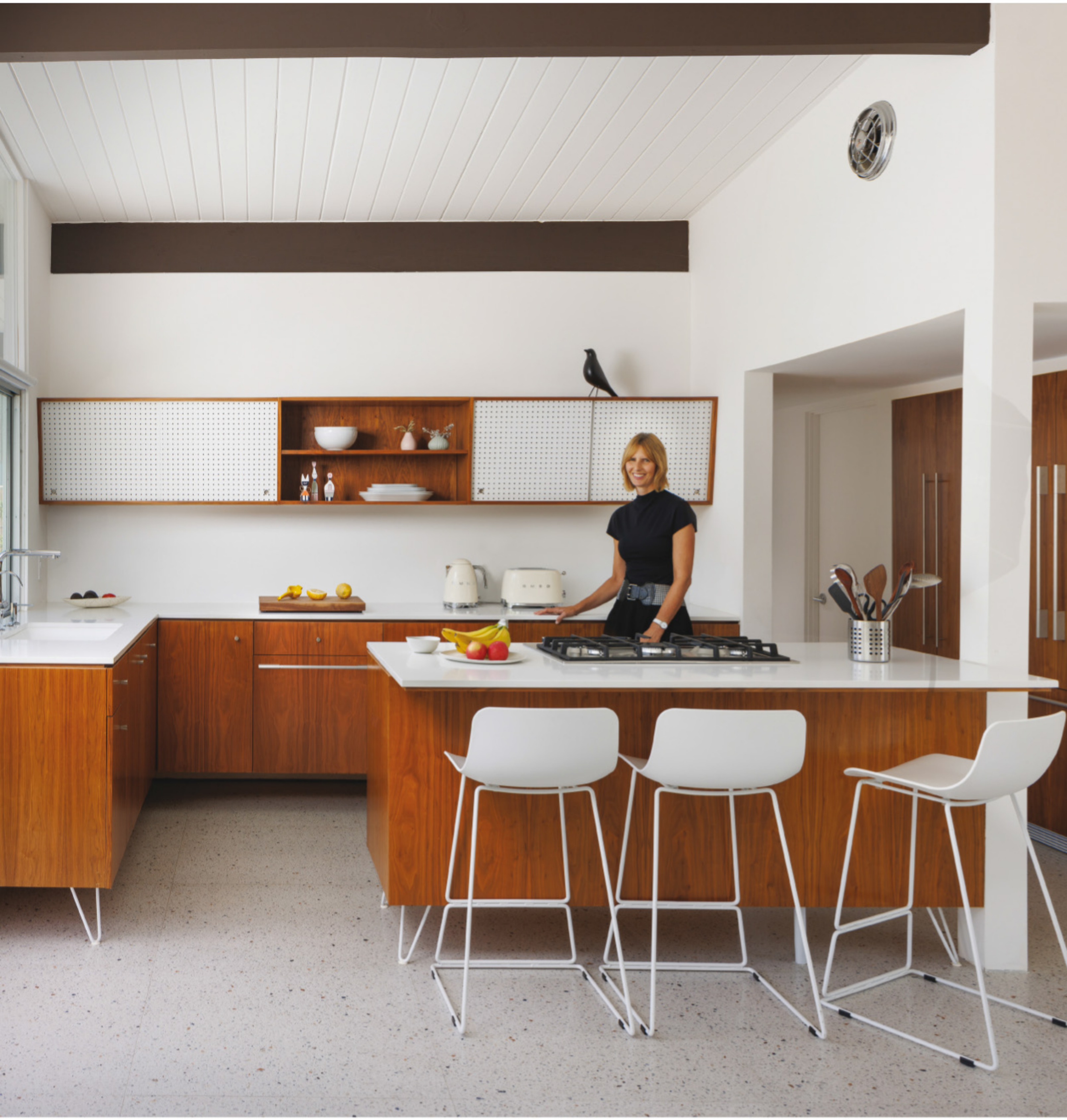
"The kitchen feels spacious and cohesive, with a sense of openness that matches the rest of the house," Daniela says.

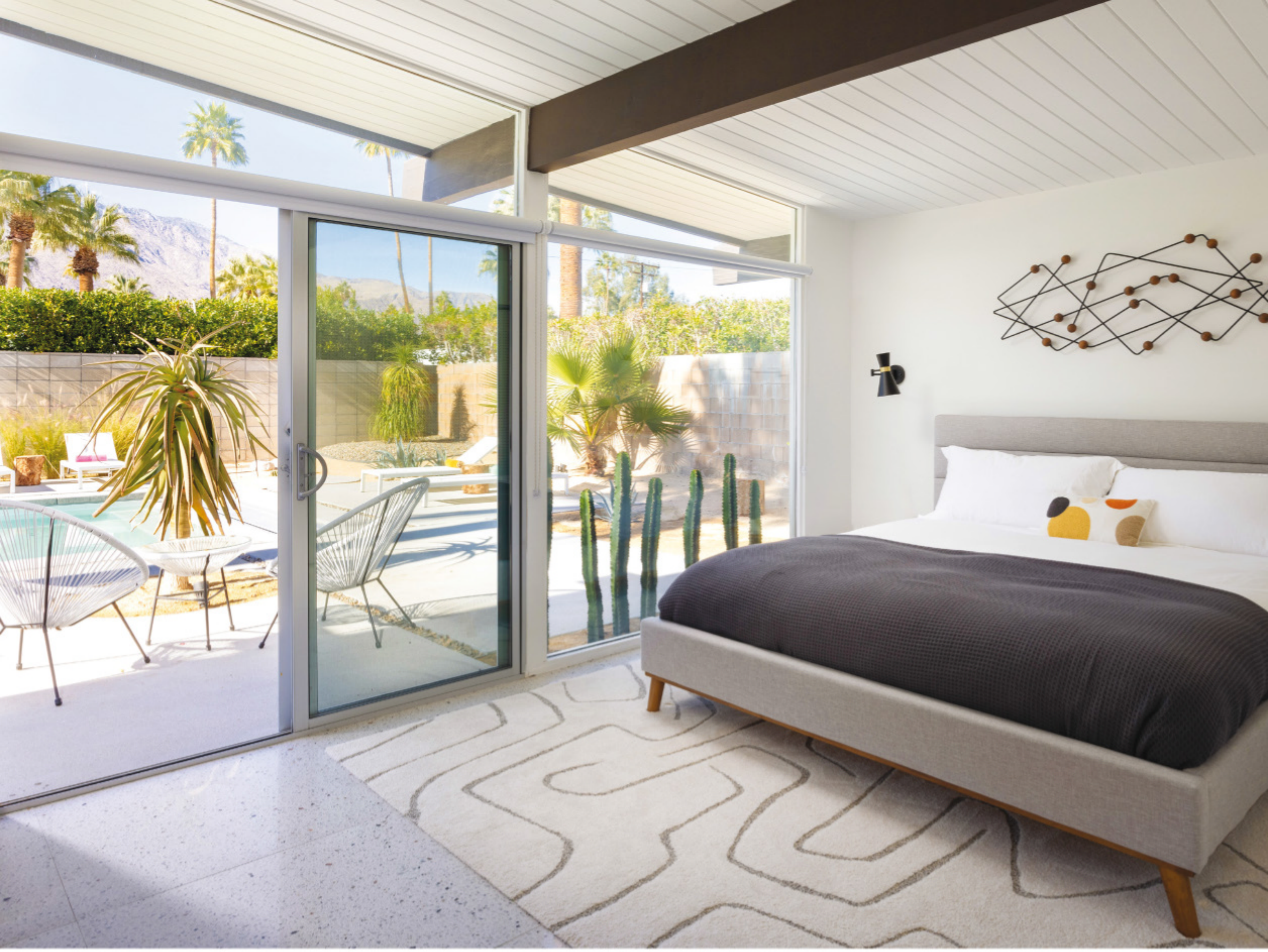
Notable mid mod touches, such as hairpin legs on the base cabinets and custom slanted fronts on the upper cabinets, pay homage to Krisel's design language. Meanwhile, modern touches, like the fully integrated fridge and a floating dish drawer, bring the space into the 21st century without sacrificing its mid-century charm.

With an emphasis on clean lines, functional design and timeless style, this kitchen is a perfect reflection of the Grozdichs' commitment to preserving mid-century style while modernizing it for the sake of livability.

OPPOSITE: THE KITCHEN LAYOUT WAS REIMAGINED TO CREATE A MORE FUNCTIONAL AND OPEN SPACE. "THE ORIGINAL KITCHEN HAD THE FRIDGE ON THE BACK WALL, WHICH MADE IT FEEL TIGHT," DANIELA EXPLAINS. "THERE WAS ALSO A TALL CABINET NEXT TO THE SINK, WHICH WE REMOVED."

TO MAKE THE KITCHEN FEEL CLEAN AND UNCLUTTERED, THE FRIDGE, STACKED WASHER AND DRYER, AND PANTRY WERE HIDDEN BEHIND WALNUT PANELS.





THE ART ABOVE THE BED IS BY DIEGO OLIVERO AND SOLD BY WEST ELM. IT ADDS A PERSONAL TOUCH TO THE SPACE. "THE ART BRINGS A SENSE OF WARMTH TO THE ROOM WHILE STILL FEELING MODERN AND IN TUNE WITH THE HOME'S DESIGN," DANIELA SAYS.

The original footprint and spatial flow were carefully preserved. "Every detail was considered," Victor notes. "For example, we kept the open floor plan and large windows, which blur the lines between the interior and the spectacular desert landscape outside."

RATED (VERY) CHILD-FRIENDLY

The kids' room features a creative art wall that was inspired by the Grozdich family's love of design and their time spent in Palm Springs.

"We often bring other families with kids to Palm Springs, and we thought it would be fun if the art wall could be filled with memories from all of our guests," Daniela says. "It's a space where kids can get creative and make it their own."

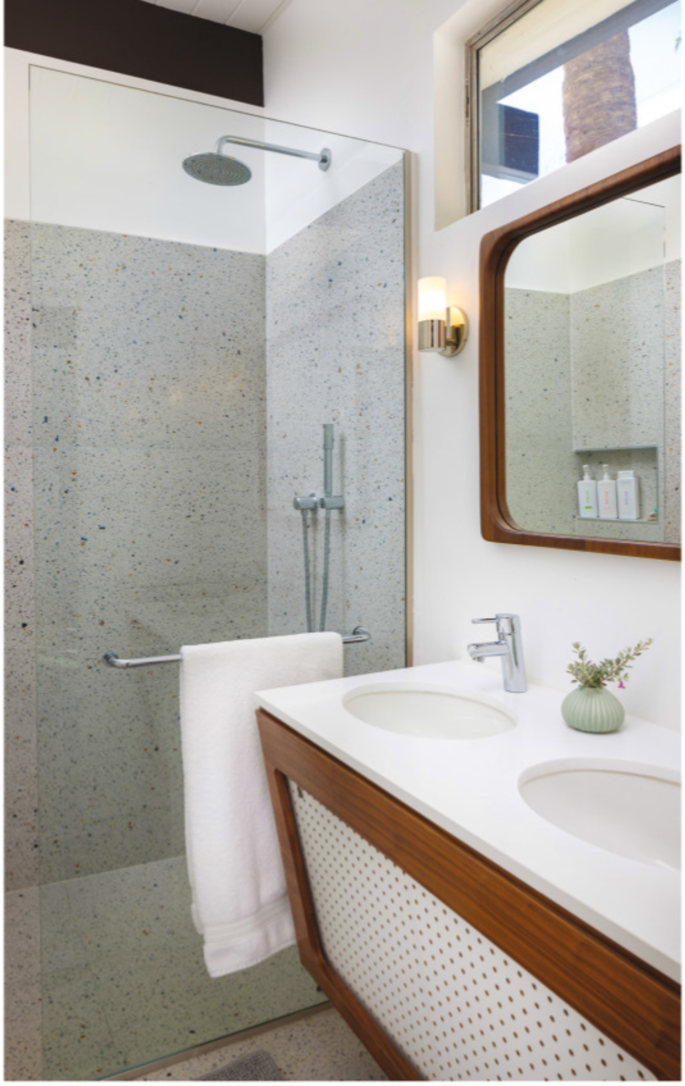
ACT II: STYLING

The open living space was designed with comfort and versatility in mind. "We wanted it to feel modern and cozy," Daniela says. "Since we often have a bunch of kids in the house, it couldn't be too staged or precious—it needed to be practical and adaptable for spontaneous get-togethers."

The furniture choices are influenced by mid-century style but have a European sensibility. "I was inspired by Berlin apartments, which are often modern but cozy," she says. "We wanted to capture that feeling here."

That same sensibility, a merging of modernism and comfort, is seen in the primary suite. Through carefully chosen furnishings they have created a tranquil retreat with sweeping views of the desert and mountains.

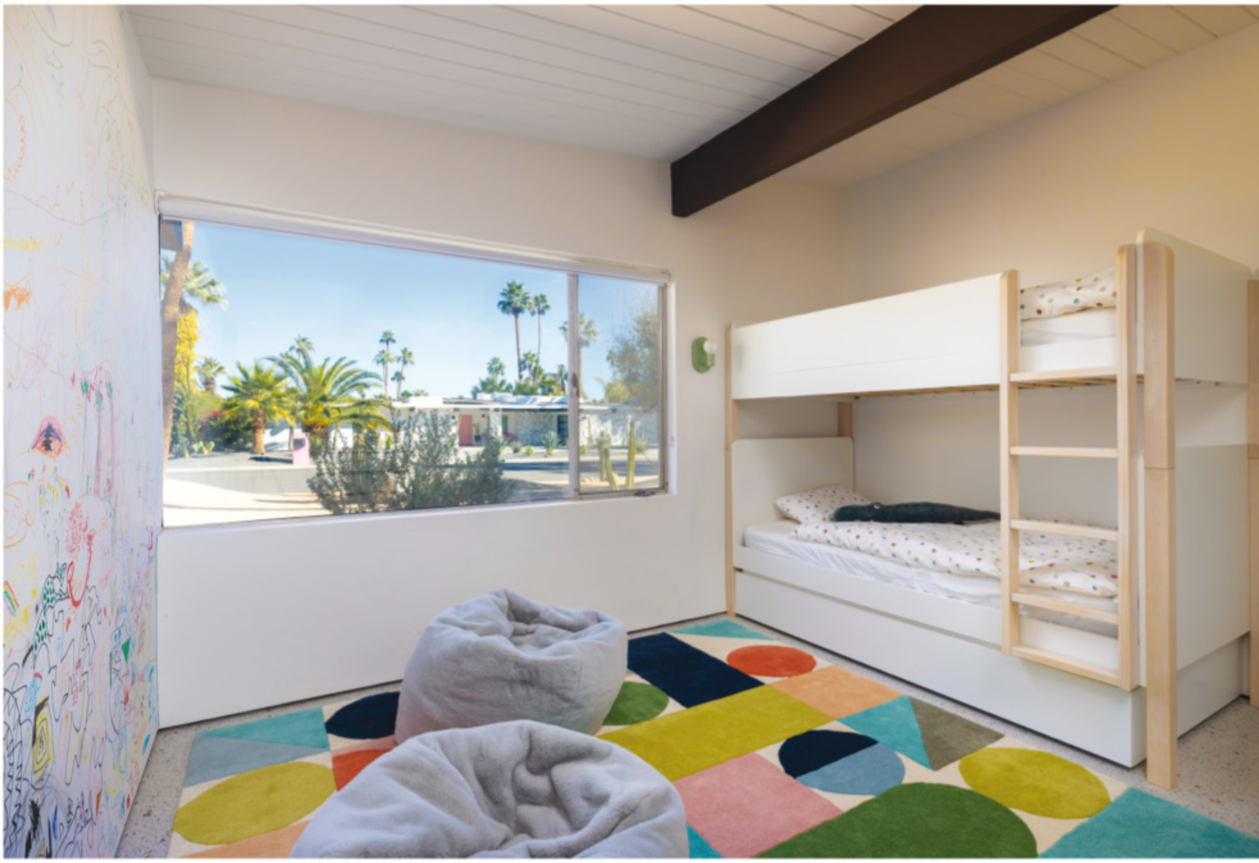
"Waking up to that Palm Springs view is magical," Daniela says. "The mountains glow pink in the morning when the sun rises. It's unlike any other place."



"The bathroom vanity and upper cabinets in the kitchen and bathroom feature slanted fronts, a playful reinterpretation of Krisel's signature design."

RIGHT: THE BATHROOM WAS CUSTOM DESIGNED TO REFLECT KRISEL'S PLAYFUL MID-CENTURY AESTHETIC, WHILE THE MATERIALS WERE UPDATED FOR MODERN SENSIBILITIES.

BELOW: SONS LUCA AND MILO ENJOY THE SPACE. "THEY LOVE TO COME HERE AND PLAY AND CREATE," DANIELA SAYS. "IT'S A ROOM THAT GROWS WITH THEM."



THE COUPLE ADDED THOUGHTFUL LANDSCAPING TO WORK WITH THE HOME'S DESERT LOCATION, USING NATIVE PLANTS TO CREATE A SIMPLE, ELEGANT DESIGN. PAIRED WITH HARDSCAPING THAT WORKS FOR THE FAMILY'S NEEDS, THE BACKYARD IS NOW A PERSONALIZED DESERT OASIS THAT BLENDS SEAMLESSLY WITH THE ARCHITECTURE.

> "Waking up to that Palm Springs view is magical. The mountains glow pink in the morning when the sun rises. It's unlike any other place."

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

"When we arrive at our house, it feels like instant vacation," Daniela says. "The house is flooded with light, the pool sparkles in the sun, and through the glass we see the mountains and palm trees."

Victor adds, "We really wanted to capture the feeling of being in Palm Springs. The combination of sunshine, palm trees, desert and modern architecture has drawn people here for decades. It's what makes this place so special."

This Palmer & Krisel home is more than a Mid Century Modern gem—it's a labor of love that perfectly balances historic preservation with modern sensibilities. For the Grozdich family, it's not just a home—it's their "happy place," a retreat where design, nature and family come together in harmony. And for those who visit, it's a breathtaking example of how modernist architecture can respectfully evolve.

SEE RESOURCES, PAGE 88

The Palm Springs Travel Guide

Ready to get acquainted with the best the desert has to offer? Check out our staff's top picks.

Since 2016, the *Atomic Ranch* staff has called Palm Springs our home away from home. As a proud sponsor of Modernism Week, we've had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with the many things the city has to offer! So, here's our list of top picks from the desert for anyone planning to visit and enjoy the historic sights and more.

BEST PLACES TO STAY

1. Orbit In Hotel
Enjoy a couple of Orbitinis around the boomerang bar or lounge by the bikini pool for a stay that is a true blast from the past at this small and private boutique hotel. Orbitin.com.

2. Del Marcos Hotel
Opened in 1947 and designed by William Cody, this was one of the first hotel properties to depart from the area's Spanish Colonial Revival styles to herald the arrival of the mid-century in the desert. Delmarcos.com.

3. Parker Palm Springs
"Groovy modern architecture meets Hollywood glamour" was what designer Jonathan Adler was going for when designing the Parker, which was formerly the Gene Autry residence. His unique vintage finds and artful assemblages certainly make for a memorable and photo-worthy stay. Parkerpalmsprings.com.

4. The Holiday House
At this Herbert Burns-designed property built in 1951, you'll find mid-century furnishings and vibrant color and pattern mixed with rich textures to capture the spirit of Palm Springs resort life. Holidayhouseps.com.

5. L'Horizon Hotel
Another of the famed Golden Era escapes, L'Horizon was built in 1952 and designed by William Cody. It's a chic pick if you want to stay where everyone from Marilyn Monroe to a couple of U.S. presidents have stayed. Lhorizonpalmsprings.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLIDAY HOUSE

MCM ♦ Americana ♦ Retro Finds

First Sunday of the Month

PALM SPRINGS Vintage MARKET

October through May

369 N Calle El Segundo
PALM SPRINGS

OCT 6 NOV 3 DEC 1 JAN 5 FEB 2 & 16
MAR 2 APR 6 MAY 4
7 AM – 2 PM
PALMSPRINGSVINTAGEMARKET.COM

Rose City Vintage Market
ANTIQUES · MIDCENTURY · AMERICANA

JOIN US IN PORTLAND
JULY 12th & 13th RoseCityVintageMarket.com

1. Agua Caliente Resort
With properties in Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City and Palm Springs, it's easy to step inside an Agua Caliente resort and escape into a different type of excitement and luxury. From live music and a premier casino to fine dining and shopping, it's 24-hour entertainment at your fingertips. Or try the newly opened Spa at Séc-he at the Palm Springs location. With the sacred mineral springs of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians as the muse of the setting, the spa is as much of a cultural experience as it is a healing one.

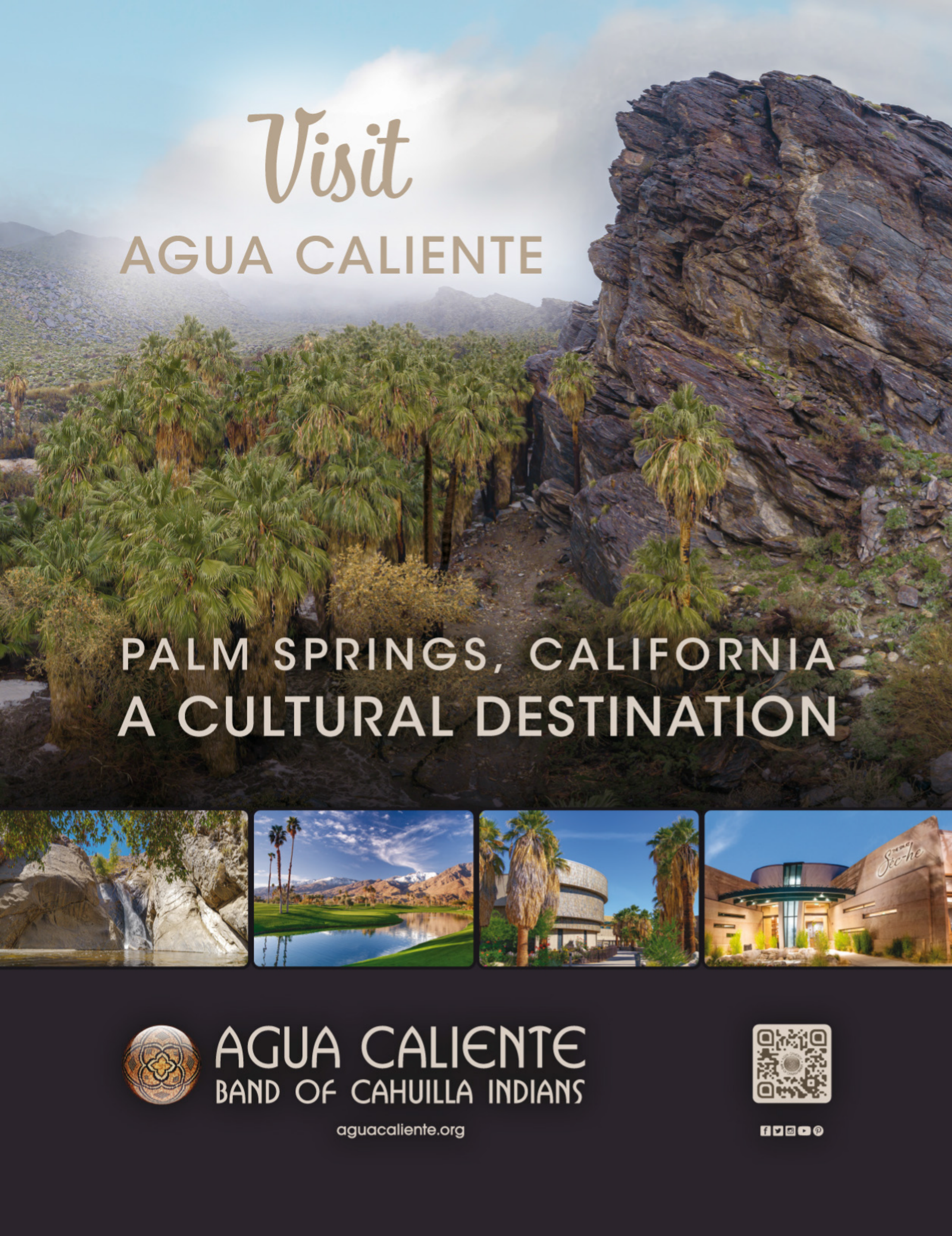
2. Indian Canyons Golf Resort
Built in 1961, this once-private club was a favorite haunt of Hollywood celebrities like Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope and Jackie Gleason. Former U.S. presidents, including Ronald Reagan and Lyndon B. Johnson, also walked these fairways.

3. Palm Springs Art Museum
Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Palm Springs Art Museum has 28 galleries, two sculpture gardens, resource centers, an 85-seat lecture hall, a 433-seat theater and a popular bistro.

4. The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
As the world's largest rotating tram car, which travels over two-and-one-half miles along the breathtaking cliffs of Chino Canyon, there is no better way to take in Palm Springs. Since 1963, over 20 million people have traveled this 10-minute excursion.

PHOTO BY DON GRAHAM

4
Palm Springs
2



Visit
AGUA CALIENTE

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
A CULTURAL DESTINATION

AGUA CALIENTE
BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

aguacaliente.org

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIO

Erich Meager is a Palm Springs ratiolaminartist who creates layered works of art from precision cut paper, wood or acrylic.

Drawing inspiration from breezeway blocks & patterns in nature, his pieces are his way of expressing geometric forms in layers & lines.

Erich Meager
RATIOLAMINARTIST

erichmeager.com

BEST PLACES TO EAT

1. Kaiser Grille

Housed in a building designed in 1956 by E. Stewart Williams, Kaiser Grille has been serving the Palm Springs community for more than 30 years. Its great wraparound patio offers great open-air dining (complete with a fire pit that's available for reservations) and people watching, while the handsome and cozy interior is great for a special night out. Kaisergrille.com.

2. Farm

It's not hard to pack in the charm when you're dining in a garden patio setting with a menu straight from the South of France. Farm manages to be a rustic and delicious oasis in the desert. Farmpalmsprings.com.

3. Chicken Ranch

Looking for a fast and fresh lunch? This sunny eatery serves delicious sandwiches and salads along with a nice menu of local beers. It's often a first stop when the team arrives in town and fuels up for a day of building our booth at the Palm Springs Modernism Show. Eatchickenranch.com.

4. Kings Highway

We've never made it to the Monday night drag bingo, but this cozy and effortlessly cool diner is a fabulous late-night option. Located inside the Ace Hotel, it's also conveniently adjacent to the Amigo Room bar. Kingshighwaydiner.com.

5. 1501 Uptown Gastropub

With unfussy food that manages to be both hearty and elegant, and a great selection of vibrant drinks, this ticks all the boxes. 1501uptown.com.

6. Boozehounds

Fun atmosphere, darling décor and dog-friendly—what more could you ask for? Well, Boozehounds also serves vibrant, memorable dishes and, of course, great cocktails. This rather large establishment is great for accommodating big groups or just for scoring a last-minute weekend reservation. Boozehoundsps.com.

7. The Sandwich Spot

This is the *Atomic Ranch* go-to for a quick takeout lunch in-between group projects. Sandwiches don names worthy of the Desert Open like The Racquet Club, the Dinah, the Indian Wells and the Federer. No matter what you get, it's all about the Dutch crunch bread. Thesandwichspot.com.

8. Trio

Dine in a beautiful historic building designed by John Porter Clark and Albert Frey with a newly remodeled interior to match. Specializing in quality regional ingredients often from local farmers, Trio has been our pick for a special Atomic Ranch team dinner or two! Triopalmsprings.com.

THE SANDWICH SPOT

"Love All, Feed All"

UNIQUELY NAMED & HANDCRAFTED WITH LOVE IN PALM SPRINGS

Come say hi and try:
The Racquet Club, The Dinah, The Federer, and The Gene Autry just to name a few.

Oh and you have to try
The Dutch Crunch Bread!

sandwichspotps.com
(760) 778-7900
276 N PALM CANYON DR, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262

PHOTO COURTESY OF B JUST FABULOUS

CORRIDOR
just fabulous
1

PHOTO BY DAVID A LEE

BEST PLACES TO SHOP

1. B Just Fabulous
The perfect first stop in town, this delightful gift boutique and bookstore sets the tone for a Palm Springs getaway. With cool artsy inventory, an extensive selection of books about the region and a ton of fun and funny finds, the shop is a happy—and fabulous—experience. Bjustfabulous.com.

2. Palm Springs Vintage Market
This beloved outdoor flea gets its stellar reputation from more than 150 vendors who consistently bring the best of the best in vintage mid century and retro finds the first Sunday of the month from October through May. Started in 2013, locals and tourists alike know this is the place to score good deals and source hard-to-find treasures. Palmspringsvintagemarket.com.

I'M KIND OF
A BIG DEAL

H3K HOME
DESI

chilewich
chilewich
chilew

Shop our showrooms or online for fab furnishings!

H3K HOME+ DESIGN

501 S Palm Canyon Drive | 74180 Highway 111
Palm Springs | Palm Desert
(760) 325.5400 | www.h3khomeanddesign.com

WE WON
PALM SPRINGS LIFE
BEST OF THE BEST

★2024★
THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY'S CHOICE AWARDS
Best of Desert

Voted 2024 Best Furniture Store!

www.h3khome.com
Use coupon code Atomic10 and receive 10% off your online order!

EXIT
H3K HOME+ DESIGN
hi

4

3

9

3. Grace Home Furnishings and Grace Home Gallery

Ready for a dose of refined taste and bespoke style? This stylish pair of shops with an aesthetic that combines East Coast elegance and Old Hollywood glamour offers just that, with a sophisticated selection of furniture as well as unique and collectible art. Gracehomefurnishings.com.

4. H3K Home+Design Showroom

It's no surprise that the design duo of Howard Hawkes and Kevin Kemper, known for some of the best and most exciting Mid Century Modern interior design in town, have created a shopping destination that encapsulates what the city is all about. Find MCM-inspired furniture, décor, gifts and accessories that allow you to bring Palm Springs style back home with you. H3khome.com.

5. Destination PSP

Like a love letter to the desert, Destination PSP is a boutique that carries everything from books and home goods to clothes and accessories, many of which are store originals. The owner's goal is to offer a range of finds that celebrate the city's rich design history, events and people. Destinationpsp.com.

6. Trina Turk and Mr. Turk

Ready to upgrade to the quintessential Palm Springs ensemble? Head to this pair of chic boutiques that offer the designer's apparel, accessories and home décor that feature her signature use of color and pattern that have become the de rigueur desert uniform. Trinaturk.com.

7. Revivals

If the thrill of the hunt is what you're seeking, Revivals is your treasure map's starting point. You'll find great treasures in the way of clothes, jewelry, small home goods and furniture at this nonprofit thrift and consignment store for the Desert Aids Project. Revivalsstores.com.

8. Kee Gallery

Voted the best art gallery by Desert Sun, the Kee Gallery is fast becoming a bustling hub of art activity in Palm Springs. Co founders Erich Meager, Kathleen Strukoff and Ernesto Ramirez, all artists represent the range of exciting fine art happening in the area. Keegallery.com.

9. Tile Designs by Fina

Feel like a kid in a candy store at this must-see showroom filled with more than 90 tile vendors in every application you can think of. Come for the inspiration or to consult with one of Fina's knowledgeable and friendly staff. Tiledesignsbyfina.com.

Mid-Century Service.
Classically Palm Springs.
KAISER GRILLE
PALM SPRINGS
KAISER GRILLE

USDA Prime Steaks, Chops, Fresh Seafood, Italian Pasta, Wood Oven Pizza, and more!

Located in the Heart of Downtown Palm Springs

kaisergrille.com

BROWSE THE MENU

Young Talent

The Palm Springs Modern Committee is inspiring the next generation of designers and architects.

By **Jickie Torres**

RIGHT: "MODERNISM ISN'T AS EASILY UNDERSTOOD OR IMMEDIATELY APPRECIATED SOMETIMES," JOAN SAYS. "WHEN WE DESCRIBE HOW THESE BUILDINGS WERE BUILT TO ADDRESS THE HOT SUN AND HOW THE ELEMENTS OF THE BUILDING ADDRESS THE CLIMATE, THEY START TO UNDERSTAND; IT STARTS TO CLICK."

BELOW: THE BEAM PROGRAM ISN'T JUST ABOUT PUBLIC CIVIC BUILDINGS. STUDENTS ALSO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DESIGN THEIR OWN HOUSES INSPIRED BY WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED ABOUT MODERN DESIGN.

OPPOSITE: "WE REALIZED THAT WHEN WE LOST SOME OF OUR ICONIC BUILDINGS IT WAS BECAUSE OF A LACK OF INFORMATION," JOAN SAYS. "THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM RUN BY PS MODCOM ARE MEANT TO REACH THE WIDER COMMUNITY AND A GREAT PLACE TO DO THAT IS THROUGH THE SCHOOLS AND THE NEXT GENERATION."

WHILE MANY MODERNISTS flock from all over the world to visit Palm Springs to admire its mid-century history and architecture, there's a large constituent of people who have no idea about the significance of their city—and they are perhaps the most important people of all: the local kids.

"So, we've got all these people coming here from all over the world, yet our own children growing up here really don't know much about it and we wanted to remedy that," says Joan Gand, the Palm Springs Modern Committee (PS ModCom) Education Committee chair. PS ModCom is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the appreciation and preservation of Desert Modernism. The group actually predates Modernism Week; in fact, they are founding members of that organization too. Today, they organize some of the most sought-after tours of the annual event.

However, PS ModCom's work happens all year. Along with year-round tours, preservation awards and exhibits, their education programs are the heart and soul of the organization. The group's work with local students began in 2014, at St. Theresa School. Inspired by the art teacher's model building project, Robert Imber, a founding member of PS ModCom and a prolific preservationist and champion for modern design, pitched a program that aimed to educate the students on famous local buildings. The session would conclude with the students creating scale models of the buildings. The program was a hit and continued for a handful of years until Robert passed the torch to Joan, who was able to fulfill Robert's dream for the program by integrating it into the local public school system.

Today, the program, called BEAM (Building Educational Architectural Models), is now an educational component in six area high schools and middle schools, and even offers a Robert Imber Scholarship awarded to three high school seniors each year. The scholarship pays them $2,500 a year for four years and is intended to be an aid as they pursue studies in the field of design.

Board member Hugh Wakeham describes the BEAM program further: "We become a segment within the art-class program," he explains. "It's a three-day segment of lectures followed by a six-week segment of bus tours and finally the model building."

The students' models also go on display—for Modernism Week and other events, like the Preservation Matters conference, and at the Palm Springs Public Library. "Every year, there is a student competition at a local nonprofit gallery called the Desert Art Center," Hugh says. "The gist of the competition is that there is a winner from each category and the school that the winner attends gets a check for buying supplies."

"We want to keep expanding and adding more students and teachers and basically grow it organically, as word of mouth spreads. We hope to keep expanding it and having as many students learn about architecture and modernism as possible," Joan says. "Our motto is 'preservation through education.' If a student learns to love architecture and then grows up in a position to perhaps vote to save local history or even be on a construction crew of a historic building, to have that understanding is crucial to continuing preservation for the next generation."

The program is also about accessibility. There are trips out of the classroom to visit local landmarks and modernist homes. The students get to see how they live and feel. "It's so rewarding for all of us," Joan says. "The students in Palm Springs are not the 'snowbird' families that come here in the wintertime. They are the working-class families. These kids have no idea; they've never been to these kinds of places. It's about getting them out there and seeing it. They realize there is more out there than their bedroom and even their classroom."

THE PROGRAM—LIKE ANY THAT PS MODCOM RUNS—DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON DONATIONS. LOCAL MERCHANTS, INCLUDING MODERN HOME DESIGN SHOWROOM, THE PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM AND O2 ARCHITECTURE, ARE JUST SOME OF THE PROGRAM SPONSORS. THE TWIN PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION AND THE LITTLE BEVERLY HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ARE OTHERS. "BLICK DONATES ART MATERIALS, WHICH ARE SO CRUCIAL BECAUSE THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS RELY ON US TO FUND THE ENTIRE PROGRAM," JOAN SAYS. "MODERN HOME DONATES MATERIALS LIKE TILE AND DUNN-EDWARDS HAS DONATED PAINT DECKS, SO THE MODELS THE KIDS BUILD WILL HAVE SIDEWALKS MADE OF TILE AND PAINT CHIPS USED FOR THE BUILDINGS."

WEST COAST MODERN LA

TIMELESS DESIGN, HANDCRAFTED FOR YOU

At West Coast Modern LA, we create custom pieces made to order. Each piece is designed to bring a vintage touch into your modern home. We offer a wide selection of furniture, from sofas to tables, credenzas, and vanities—each handcrafted with care in Los Angeles.

Why West Coast Modern LA?

Personalized Designs: Work with us to create furniture that fits your style and space.

Locally Handcrafted: Every item is made in our L.A. woodshop, from hand-built credenzas to custom upholstery.

Enduring Style: Inspired by timeless MCM design, built to last for years to come.

☎ **(562) 243-1258**

Ready to transform your home with something truly unique?
Visit **westcoastmodernla.com** or reach out today to explore custom options, staging services, or to browse our full collection.

Artist Kathleen Strukoff is a PS ModCom member and helps teach the programs educating the students on what modernism architecture is, who the “rockstar” architects are who were key in the development of Palm Springs. “There is nothing that compares to the hands-on experience of creating something, and the teachers are always amazed how it works like magic with the kids,” Kathleen says. “That is when you know that some of the kids who didn't seem like they were paying attention were actually listening! In the long run, every year we see kids who weren't necessarily thinking about going to college decide that they want to study architecture or something related to that, oftentimes becoming the first person in their family to go to college.”

As far as the impact on the community? “The kids learn that they live in a very special place in the world of architecture,” Kathleen says. “They discover that there is special history in the places they pass by without knowing about that history and that people from around the country and the world come here to see these places. It gives them a sense of pride about their community and opens their eyes to new studies and careers they had not thought about. The impact might be that new paths are opened for some of our young people in the community and some of them will become the future leaders of the area. The other impact is that this knowledge will help preserve the special buildings in the future when, as I tell them, they are ‘in charge’ and will make sure things don’t get torn down in the name of progress.”

PALM SPRINGS CITY HALL

TIMELESS
AUTHENTIC
ENDURING

Celebrate the original character of your period home with the historically authentic Subway Ceramics collection of subway tile and porcelain mosaics.

Reproduce your architectural style in a tile design that accurately reflects each period aesthetic, from Victorian Revival to Mid-century Modern.

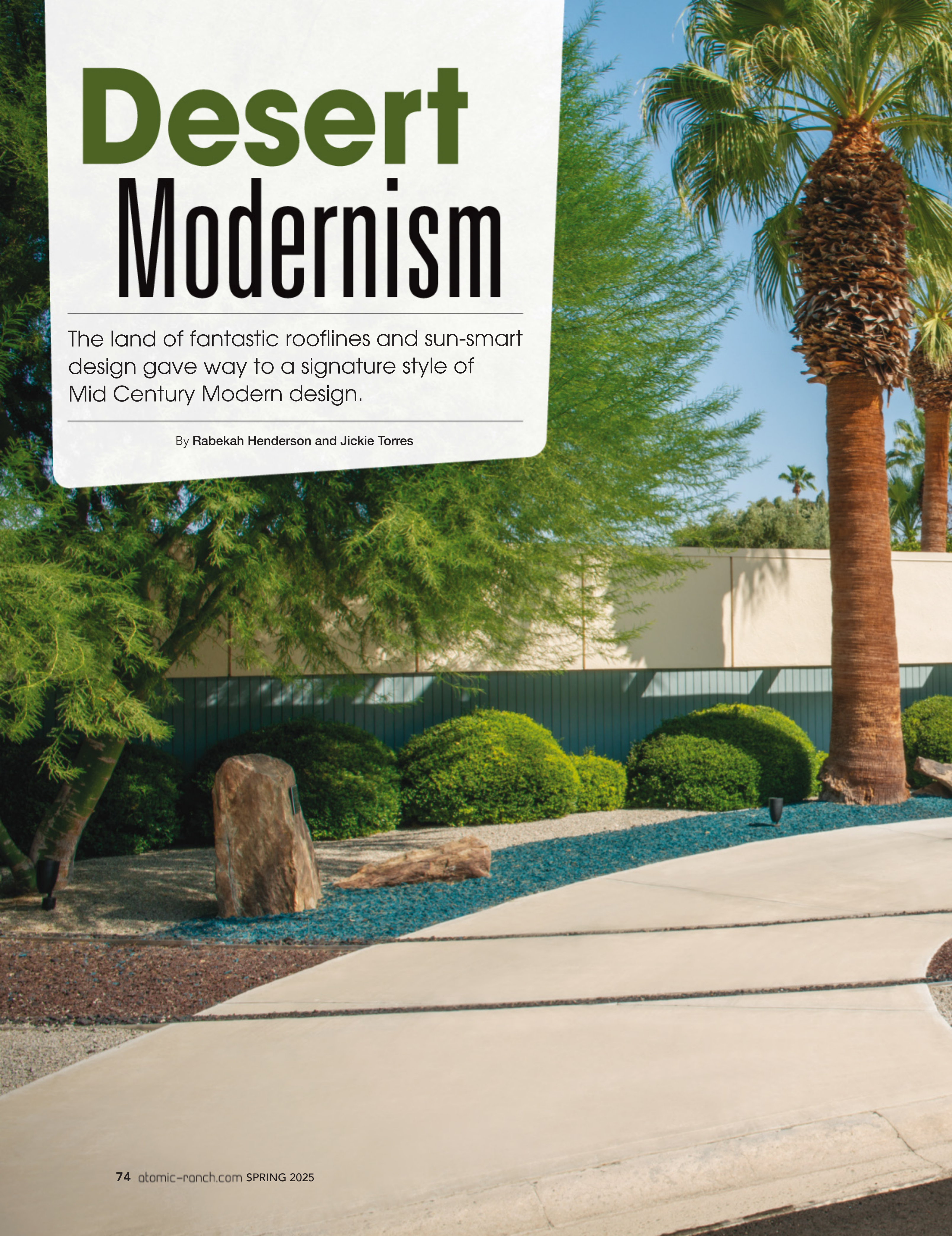
This authentic reproduction of an original Saul Bass relief design in a satin blue glaze adds a dramatic shadow effect as a focal point in this contemporary kitchen backsplash.

Pictured Here:
Saul Bass Series Sculptured Tile
Diamond Pattern in Turquoise

HERITAGETILE®
WE CARE ABOUT THE CRAFT

888-387-3280
heritagetile.com

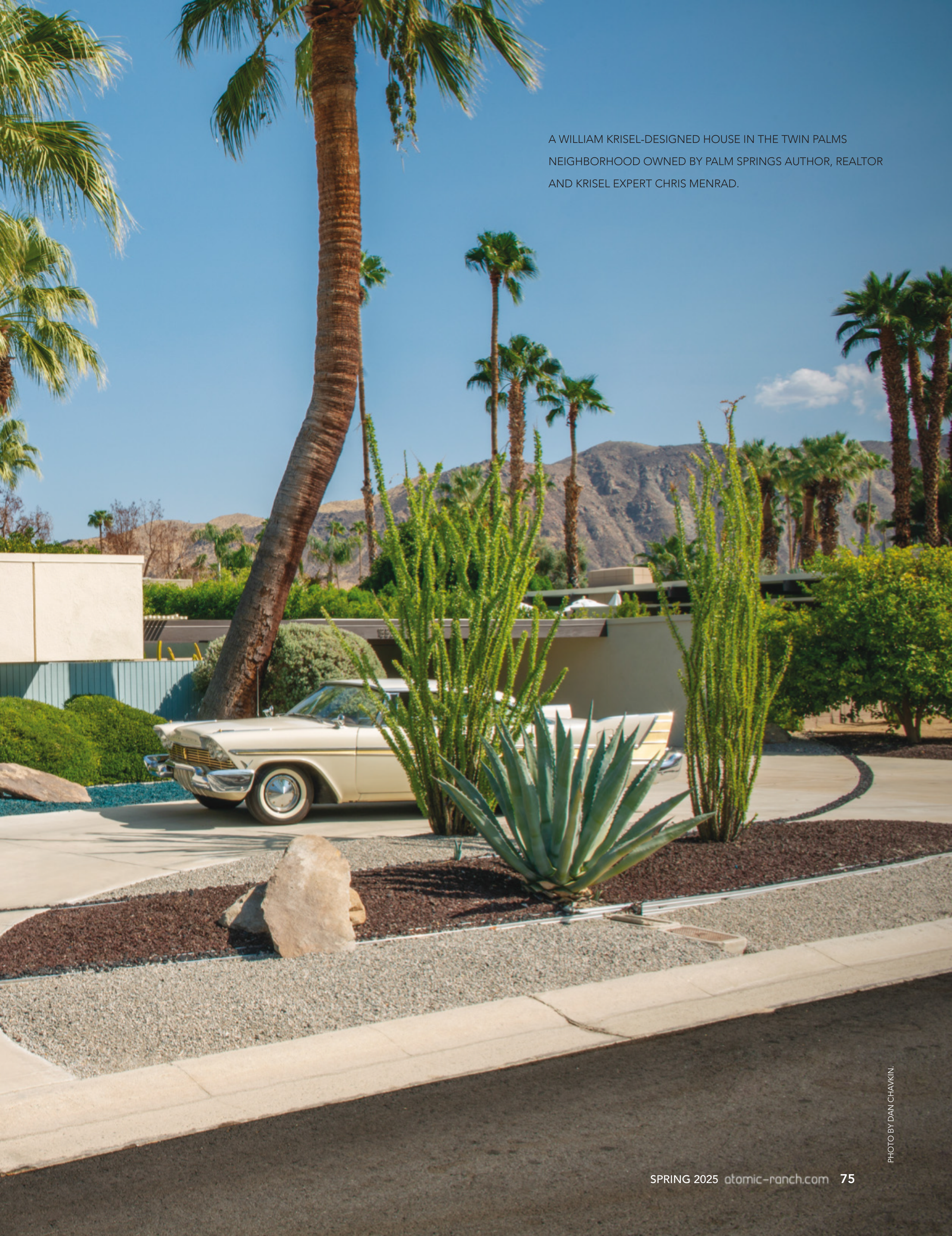
subwaytile.com/mcm



Desert Modernism

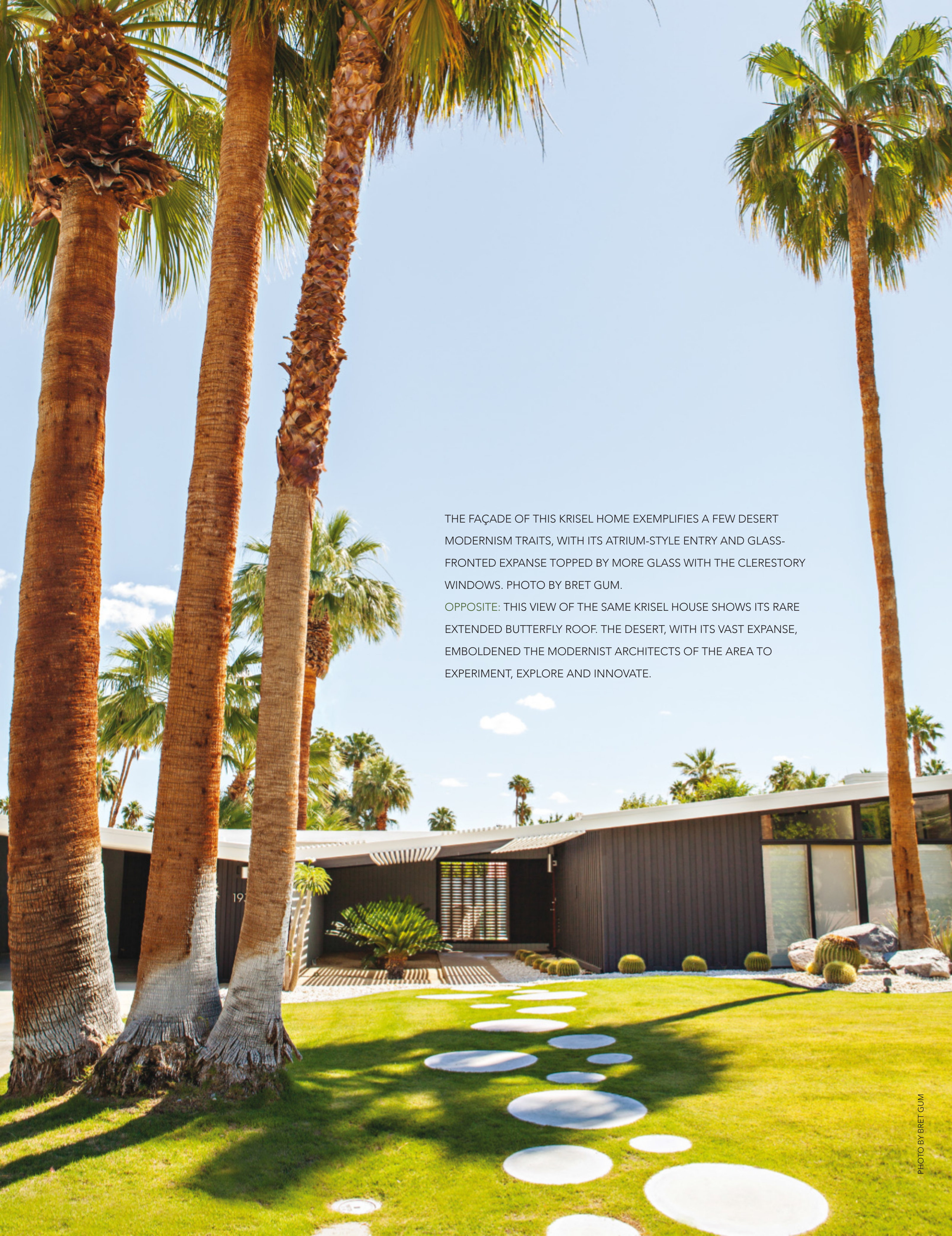
The land of fantastic rooflines and sun-smart design gave way to a signature style of Mid Century Modern design.

By **Rabekah Henderson and Jickie Torres**



A WILLIAM KRISEL-DESIGNED HOUSE IN THE TWIN PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD OWNED BY PALM SPRINGS AUTHOR, REALTOR AND KRISEL EXPERT CHRIS MENRAD.

PHOTO BY DAN CHAVKIN.



THE FAÇADE OF THIS KRISEL HOME EXEMPLIFIES A FEW DESERT MODERNISM TRAITS, WITH ITS ATRIUM-STYLE ENTRY AND GLASS-FRONTED EXPANSE TOPPED BY MORE GLASS WITH THE CLERESTORY WINDOWS. PHOTO BY BRET GUM.

OPPOSITE: THIS VIEW OF THE SAME KRISEL HOUSE SHOWS ITS RARE EXTENDED BUTTERFLY ROOF. THE DESERT, WITH ITS VAST EXPANSE, EMBOLDENED THE MODERNIST ARCHITECTS OF THE AREA TO EXPERIMENT, EXPLORE AND INNOVATE.

PHOTO BY BRET GUM

AS A STYLE OF Mid Century Modern design, Desert Modernism takes key mid-century elements like sleek lines and open spaces a step further by giving them a Desert Modern twist. But this style isn't found just anywhere: True to its name, Desert Modernism is found most frequently in the arid oasis of Palm Springs, California.

The sunny skies and year-round warmth of Palm Springs made it a vacation destination in the mid-century and its natural beauty didn't hurt too much either. Because of this, the town adopted an informal and relaxed feel, and its architecture started to follow. Here, form followed function as expansive glass windows characteristic of the style showed off the picturesque Coachella Valley and dramatic overhangs protected the interior from midday heat.

WHAT DOES DESERT MODERNISM LOOK LIKE?

The exteriors of Desert Modern homes first and foremost reflect the beauty of the surrounding landscape. This is done through large walls of glass; ample windows and high clerestory windows that let the outside in; low, sleek lines that make buildings blend in with the scenery and open interiors that keep that airy desert feeling.

Desert Modernism also uses natural building materials like wood and stone as a way to blur the line between man-made and nature-made. Block walls and breezeblocks are signature materials that bring earthy texture into the designs.

Structures were heavy with shaded breezeways and overhangs that addressed the harsh sun. Large expanses of outdoor spaces and muted exterior colors were also part of the style's harmony with the landscape.

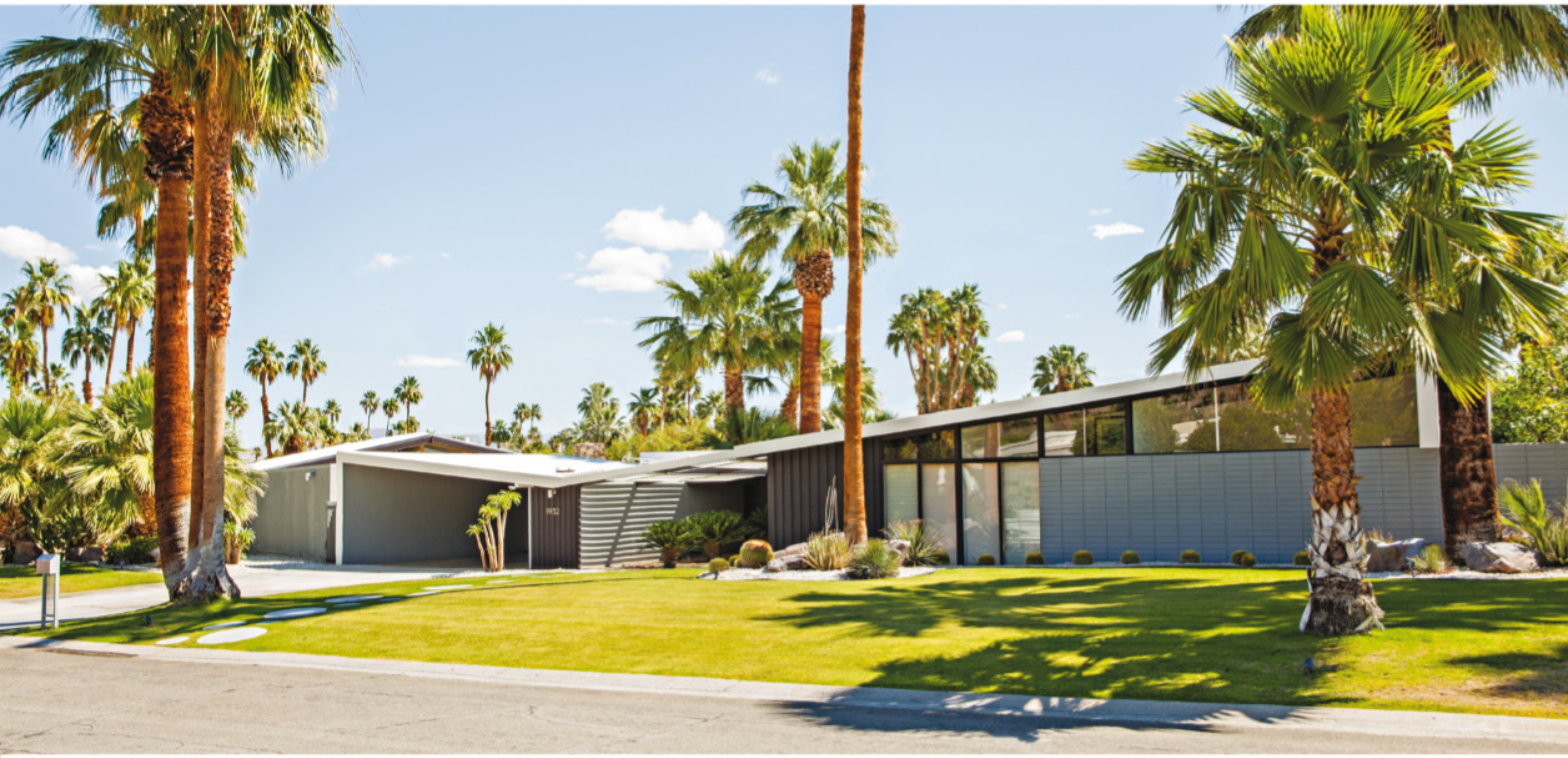
And because these homes were not often year-round residences, it paved the way for more bold and daring designs, such as the angular rooflines and geometric façades.

THE ARCHITECTS

Before the arid landscape attracted the glamorous Hollywood stars that the area's history is well-known for, the seeds of desert design were planted by agricultural pioneers who were driven by the prospects of date farming—the crop that is the true jewel of the desert today. In 1922, Rudolph Schindler designed a cabin for Paul Popenoe, a scientist and USDA agricultural explorer. The cabin was simple, with low-slung flat roofs that might have been influenced by Pueblo Revival style, but it was decidedly minimalistic and certainly created with the climate in mind: The house featured four open-air sleeping porches that were feasible and suitable to a mostly dry climate. The stage was set, therefore, for this sturdy and strategic form that would withstand the valley's conditions.

There are many architects who produced prolific work in the entire Coachella Valley, but Albert Frey is widely considered one of the founders of Desert Modern style. He once wrote to his boss and mentor Le Corbusier: "The sun, the pure air, the simple forms of the desert create the perfect conditions for architecture." While Swiss-born Frey's design foundation was built in Belgium and France and was informed largely by the De Stijl and Bauhaus movements, it was in the California desert that he truly honed his signature works.

PHOTO BY BRET GUM



Eleven Fifty Seven

PHOTO BY DAVE FOLKS

DEVELOPED BY PAUL W. TROUSDALE & ASSOCIATES BEGINNING IN 1947, THE TAHQUITZ RIVER ESTATES FEATURES EIGHT MODELS OF HOMES DESIGNED BY ARCHITECT ALLEN G. SIPLE. EACH FEATURED THE LATEST DÉCOR ELEMENTS AND COMFORTS OF THEIR TIME, LIKE EXPOSED-BEAM CEILINGS AND STEEL-CASEMENT WINDOWS, AND WERE DESIGNED TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE STUNNING DESERT SURROUNDINGS.

Frey designed Palm Springs City Hall, the Aerial Tramway Valley Station and the Tramway Gas Station, now the Palm Springs Visitor Center. And then there are his most notable residential works: Cree House II; the Lowey house; his private residences, Frey house I and II; and, of course, the small Bel Vista House.

Donald Wexler cut his teeth in architecture working for Richard Neutra shortly after graduating from the University of Minnesota, but once he moved to the desert in 1952 he never left. Wexler pioneered the use of steel in residential work. In 1962, he designed the all-steel Alexander Company houses—a visionary project featuring folded plate roofs and light-gauge metal walls using a material Wexler felt was ideally suited for desert living.

Timeless MCM Living room furniture
Casara Modern
casaramodern.com | 714-317-9342

Gay Fad Studios®
GLASSWARE

Lift your spirits with Ohio-made glass
that instantly sparks nostalgia.

---

ginkgo leaf studio
LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Providing landscape design throughout the United States

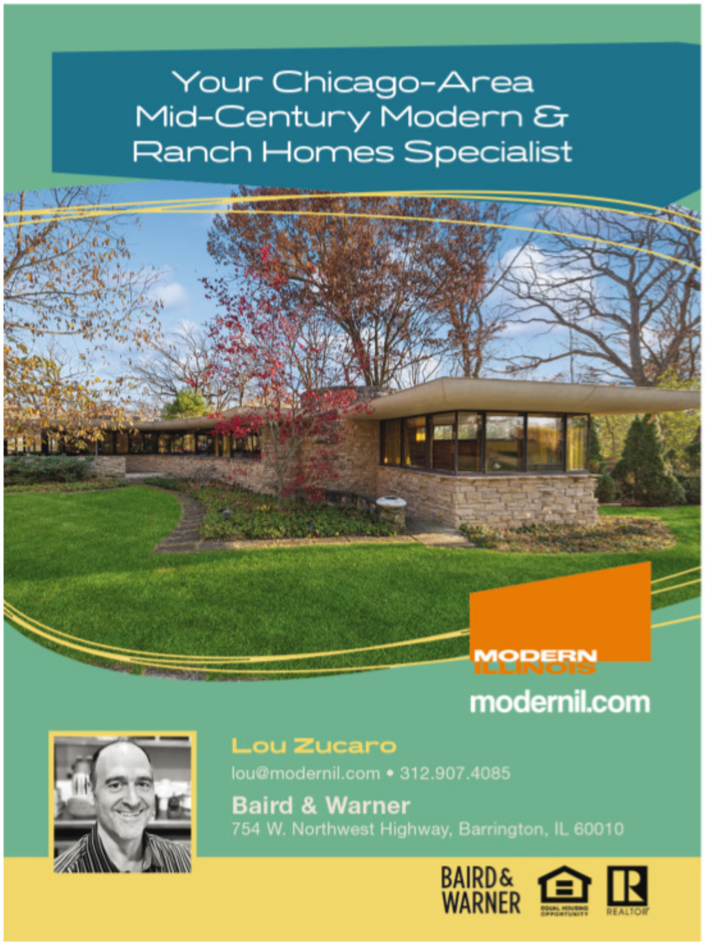
ginkgoleafstudio.net
262.376.5050
MILWAUKEE WI • BOZEMAN MT

2024 Best of Houzz Design

2024 Best of Houzz Service

midcenturystore.com
619-295-4832

**mid
century
store**


Your Chicago-Area
Mid-Century Modern &
Ranch Homes Specialist

MODERN ILLINOIS
modernil.com

Lou Zucaro
lou@modernil.com • 312.907.4085
Baird & Warner
754 W. Northwest Highway, Barrington, IL 60010

BAIRD & WARNER

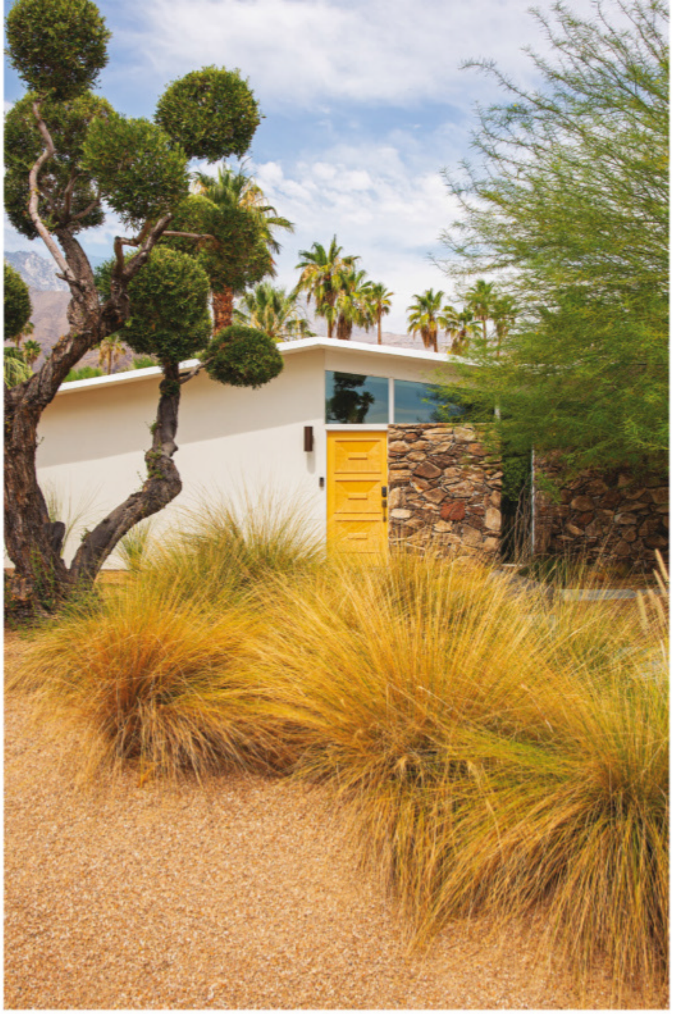


PHOTO BY BRET GUM

A 1959 PALMER & KRISEL HOME BOASTS A ROCK ENTRY WALL. THE MATERIAL WAS POPULAR BECAUSE OF ITS ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH THE LANDSCAPE AND IMBUE BOTH THE EXTERIORS AND INTERIORS WITH DRAMATIC TEXTURE.

The project was a pioneer of prefab-style construction intended to be fast and cost-efficient. Wexler also designed the Palm Springs Airport and The Dinah Shore Estate.

While William Krisel didn't work exclusively in the desert (he also designed homes in Los Angeles, San Diego and Las Vegas), he was responsible for nearly doubling the size of the city during its boom in the mid-1950s, producing more than 2,500 tract homes that still stand today. Look no further than his signature butterfly roofline and such projects as The House of Tomorrow, Twin Palm Estates and Racquet Club Estates, to name a few, to see how his iconic designs have become emblematic of the style and the city.

William Cody, Hugh Kapture and E. Stewart Williams were among the other most notable architects of the area, each contributing structures to the city's aesthetic landscape and designing homes for stars like Steve McQueen, William Holden (Kapture) and Frank Sinatra (Williams).

Desert Modernism brought together architects and interior designers to create an effortless, simple style. These mid-century designers helped put Desert Modern style on the map—Twin Palm Estates and Palm Springs left all the more beautiful for it.

modernous
INTERIOR DESIGN

modern + midcentury specialists
modernous.com
206.430.1966

Retro is . . .
a celebration of modern vintage style and craftsmanship.

The Cottle House
Arapaho Hills
Littleton, Colorado

Kimber Dempsey
RETRO REALTOR®
ASSOCIATE BROKER

TheRetroRealtor.com

@KimberRetroRealtor FB.me/KimberRetroRealtor

Specializing in all types of mid-20th century retro homes, Kimber is your guide to buying and selling the most interesting, bold, and well-designed homes in Colorado.

ONE REALTYONEGROUP PREMIER

Call or Text 303·913·4505
Kimber@TheRetroRealtor.com

Weldtex

COMBED TILES & PANELS

WELDTEX IS BACK FROM THE MIDCENTURY!

Vintage Plywood provides Weldtex tiles & panels that are perfect for the mid-century flair you've been wanting for your home. Visit our website for more information about our products.

MADE IN USA est 1987 VINTAGE PLYWOOD MILLWORKS

(415)883-5300

VintagePlywood.com

Ceiling Tiles
Accent Walls
Wainscot

HOME + HISTORY LAS VEGAS 10

Vegas Then. **Vegas Now.**

Presented by the Nevada Preservation Foundation, **Home + History Las Vegas** kicks off May 1 - 4, 2025! Celebrating ten years of historic neighborhood and vintage home tours, local guides showcase Las Vegas culture, history, and architecture. Soak up Vegas vibes with our educational programs, or get all dolled up for legendary cocktail events in unique and historic spaces.

May 1-4, 2025 | nevadapreservation.org

HOME + HISTORY LAS VEGAS

NPF NEVADA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

modernism week®

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

WHERE ARCHITECTURE MEETS INSPIRATION

modernism week

February 13-23, 2025

Palm Springs, California

More than 450 events over 11 days

modernism week
Welcome to Modernism Week
PALM SPRINGS

TICKETS AND INFORMATION AT **modernismweek.com**

Photos by Michelle Boudreau, Jake Holt, David A. Lee, Clinton Meyer, and Taso Papadakis . Sponsors as of January 6, 2025.

Major
FERGUSON

Grand
BRIZO
Dunn-Edwards PAINTS
MONOGRAM

Civic Presenting
City of Palm Springs

Premier
COTINO
FLOR
NATURAL RETREATS Palm Springs
Willis

atomicadvertisers

ACCESSORIES & ARTWORK

Calabaza Goods	87	505-428-8132	calabazagoods.com
Erich Meager	64		erichmeager.com
Evans Family Company	88	858-461-8069	fagasstraps.com
Gay Fad Studios	79		gayfadstudios.com
John Moran Auctioneers & Appraisers	17	626-793-1833	johnmoran.com
Kate McEnroe New York	11	917-455-5322	katemcenroeny.com
The Shag Store	7	760-322-3400	shagstore.com

DESIGN RESOURCES & BOOKS

Asheford Institute of Antiques	84	877-444-4508	asheford.com

EXTERIOR ACCESSORIES

Modbox USA, Inc.	85		modboxusa.com
Modern House Numbers	84		modernhousenumbers.com

MODERN FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS

Casara Modern	78	714-317-9342	casaramodern.com
H3K Design	67	760-325-5400	h3khomeanddesign.com
Loll Designs	5		lolldesigns.com
West Coast Modern LA	72	760- 989-0537	westcoastmodernla.com

LIGHTING

Remcraft	85	800-327-6585	atomicremcraft.com
TedStuff	85	561-272-0770	tedstuff.net

MIDCENTURY REALTORS & HOUSE TOURS

Alden B. Dow Home & Studio	21	866-315-767	abdow.org
Mid Century Homes	15	208-996-575	mid-centuryhomes.com
MidMod Colorado / Adrian Kinney	Cover 2	303-219-062	midmodcolorado.com
Modern Illinois	80	312-907-408	Modernil.com
Modernism Week	83		modernismweek.com
Realty One Group-Lone Tree (Kimber Dempsey)	80	303-913-450	TheRetroRealtor.com

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR DESIGN & FINISHES

B&W Tile	20	310-538-957	bwtile.com
Clayhaus	23	503-928-307	clayhaustile.com
Ginkgo Leaf Studio	79	262-376-505	ginkgoleafstudio.net
Kerf Design	Cover 4	206-954-867	kerfdesign.com
Heritage Tile	73	888-387-328	heritagetile.com
Make It Mid Century	85		makeitmidcentury.com
Modernous	81	206-430-196	modernous.com
Modwalls	9	877-439-973	modwalls.com
Shields Residential	13		shieldsresidential.com
Vintage Plywood	82	415-883-530	vintageplywood.com
Window Visions/Loewen	Cover 3	858-345-107	windowvisionsinc.com

RESTAURANTS, LODGING, MUSEUMS

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	63	760-778-107	accmuseum.org
Kaiser Grille- Palm Springs	69	760-323-100	kaisergrille.com
Nevada Preservation Foundation	82	800-881-582	nevadapreservation.org
The Sandwich Spot - Palm Springs	65	760-778-790	sandwichspotps.com

VINTAGE SHOPS & FURNITURE REHAB

Dolphin Fairs	89		dolphinfairs.com
Mid Century Store	80	619-295-483	midcenturystore.com
Mid Mod Décor	87	267-282-110	midmod-decor.com
Palm Springs Vintage Market	61	760-534-796	palmspringsvintagemarket.com

Would You Like To Be A Mid-Century Modern Antiques Dealer?

You Can:

*Start your own Mid-Century Modern Antiques Business

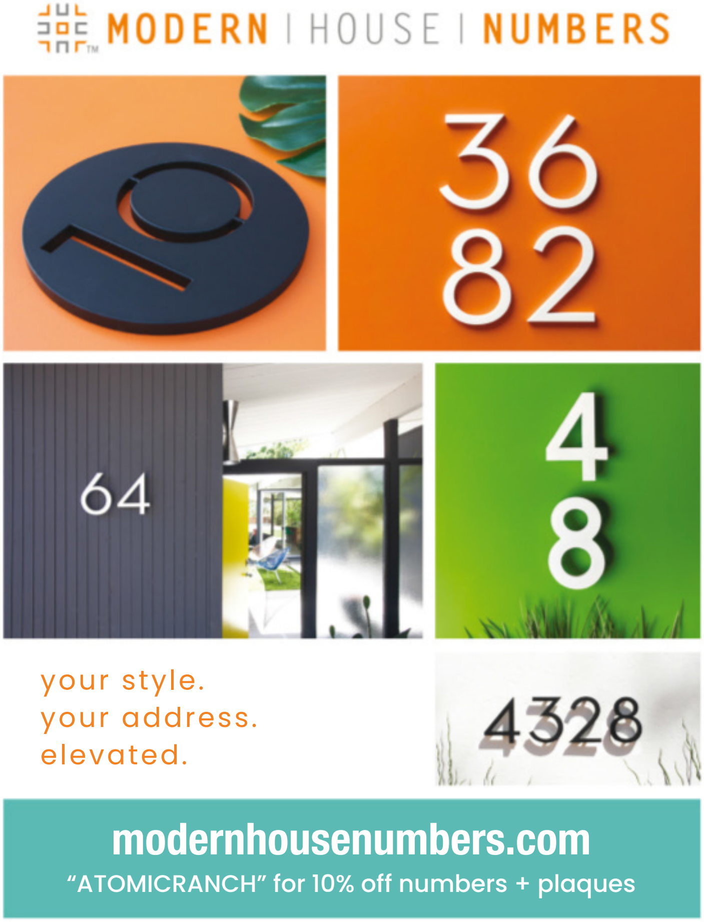
*Choose the hours you wish to work

* Become a "Certified" Decorative Arts Appraiser

*Complete an internationally recognized 12 Volume Course with Diploma & Appraisal Certification (PACC & USPAP)

www.asheford.com

For A FREE Course Prospectus Booklet:
www.asheford.com
Email: asheford@mail.com
Toll free: 877-444-4508
Or write to:
Asheford Institute: 981 Harbor Blvd.
Ste. 3, Dept. 275ATR43 Destin, FL 32541


MODERN | HOUSE | NUMBERS

your style.
your address.
elevated.

modernhousenumbers.com
"ATOMICRANCH" for 10% off numbers + plaques

modboxUSA
Mid-Century Modern Mailboxes

Curbside and wall-mounted designs with
full customization in 12 iconic colors

modboxusa.com

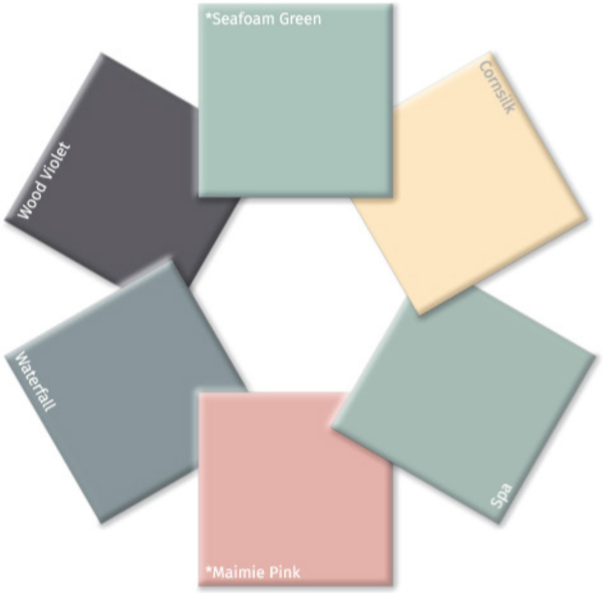
Setting the standard. Again.

With classic midcentury modern styling and durable, baked enamel finishes, RETRO by Remcraft fixtures are built to their original 1950's specifications and quality standards (with a few modern improvements) to ensure unmatched durability and long, trouble-free service. They are available in a wide variety of styles and finishes to suit any decor, indoors or out. What's more, most styles are in stock and ready to ship. Give us a call or visit our website to find out more.

800.327.6585 | atomicremcraft.com

See us in the Atomic Ranch booth at the
2025 PALM SPRINGS MODERNISM SHOW

RETRO
BY REMCRAFT



Mid-Century tile colors.

With six pastels (*including two you can only find with us!) plus 38 more gorgeous colors, we have your kitchen and bath renovations covered.

Make it MID-CENTURY

makeitmidcentury.com

Style, Durability and Security

848
1201
211

The new PackageBox from TedStuff is a stylish, locking mailbox in a variety of colors designed to handle small packages and larger mail capacities.

The PackageBox is now available in post and wall mounted versions and like all TedStuff products is easy to install and maintain and is built to last.

To find out more visit us at tedstuff.com

TedStuff
by Ted Juracsik

webupdate

atomicranch.com

Find more MCM design inspo on our website!

CREDIT: BRET GUM

Palm Springs Architectural Terms

Here are some key terms you'll want to know relating to Palm Springs architecture: butterfly roof, cantilever and hyperbolic paraboloid.

55 60 70 80 100 120 140 160
CREDIT: HENRY Z. DE KUYPER

Learn the Basics of Collecting Mid Mod Radios

If vintage electronics and old radio dramas bring back fond memories, start a collection of broadcast ephemera with this guide for finding mid-century radios.

CREDIT: DAN CHAVKIN

A 1950s Home Restored in Old Las Palmas

Designers Howard Hawkes and Kevin Kemper of H3K Home+Design restored this 1950s home in the historic Old Las Palmas neighborhood.

CREDIT: EVER SO ORGANIZED

MCM Kitchen Storage Organization

Level up your Mid Century Modern kitchen storage organization with this advice from Amanda Burns Clark, a professional organizer and Eichler homeowner.

Follow us online on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **Pinterest** daily!

LOOK FOR THIS SYMBOL THROUGHOUT THE ISSUE TO SEE WHAT EXTRA CONTENT YOU'LL FIND ONLINE.

MID MOD decor

vintage
mid-century
modern
furniture

Based in Philly.
Nationwide
Shipping.

Buying
Selling
Restoring

Text or Call: 267.282.1105
info@midmod-decor.com
https://midmod-decor.com

follow us on
instagram

Calabaza™
Living In Color

To stay: pillows, drapes, tabletop, kitchen

To go: hats, shirts, shorts, scarves, caftans

calabazagoods.com

resources

Bright Ideas

Page 18

Bar stools, chairs, table, chandelier: West Elm, westelm.com.

Pendant lights: AllModern, allmodern.com.

Tile backsplash: TileBar, tilebar.com.

A House of Many Chapters

Page 36

Cactus art installation: Dustin Gimble, Second Nature Garden Design, secondnaturegardendesign.com.

Colored glass: Antique Galleries, Antique Galleries Palm Springs, antiquegalleriespalmsprings.com.

Vintage and antique pieces: Dazzles, (760) 459-3548.

Love for a Desert Classic

Page 48

Flooring: Roca Pigment terrazzo tile in 35" x 35" format, Stonehouse Tile, stonehousetile.com or Roca Tile, rocatileusa.com.

Sofa: Burrard, article.com.

Lenia Collection coffee table and media unit, Anco bar stools, Lubek outdoor low corner sectional, outdoor stackable dining chair: Article, article.com.

Living room floor lamp: Watt Articulating polished nickel floor lamp, CB2, discontinued.

Sofa pillows: Decorative Geo pillowcase, Stylish Decor Boho colored throw-pillow cover for couch sofa bed, Simple Cotton textured cushion sham square: amazon.com.

Dining table: Cress 71", scandinaviandesigns.com.

Dining room pendant light: Orikata, Room & Board, roomandboard.com.

Living room: Circle and Line Quadrant wall hanging, abstract iron and wood dimensional wall art by Diego Olivero: West Elm, westelm.com.

Living room rug: Rectangle Audeliz Abstract, Comeaux upholstered platform bed in king size, Glory wool blue/green/light orange rug in kids room: Wayfair, wayfair.com.

Kids' bunk bed: Babyletto TipToe, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.com.

Kids' room bean bag: Anywhere Beanbag, Pottery Barn Kids, potterybarnkids.com.

Bathroom, kitchen: Grohe Concetto bathroom faucet, Grohe Sena bathroom hand shower, Hansgrohe Vernis Blend shower head, Kohler Caxton bathroom sink, Grohe Minta pull-out spray kitchen faucet, Kohler Caim 27-1/2" undermount single-basin kitchen sink, Fisher and Paykel dish drawer, Fisher and Paykel panel-ready fridge: Build, build.com.

Hairpin legs: The Hairpin Leg Co., thehairpinlegcompany.com.

Outdoor kitchen: custom, NewAge Products, shopnewage.com.

Exterior wall sconce: Cosmic wall sconce, Inmod, inmod.com.

Outdoor chairs around the firepit: Bisso patio dining chair, Wayfair, wayfair.com.

Outdoor seating: Acapulco chairs, Sweet Home Collection chair cushion memory-foam pads: Amazon, amazon.com.

Outdoor dining table: Kinsey outdoor dining table, Joybird, joybird.com.

Official US distributor
since 1945

Replace
broken or stretched
Fagas Straps!

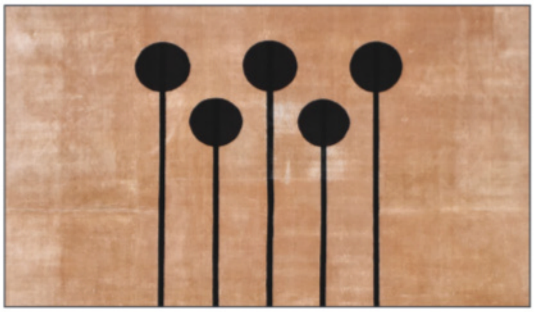
www.fagasstraps.com
info@fagasstraps.com 858.461.8069

The Best
in Midcentury and Modern Design

PALM SPRINGS **MODERNISM** SHOW

CELEBRATING **25 YEARS**

palmspringsmodernism.com



Vintage 20th Century and Contemporary Art and Design

February 14 | **Preview Party**

6-9pm Benefiting Modernism Week
Live Music | Food and Drinks
Complimentary Valet Parking

February 15-17 | **Modernism Show**

Saturday	10am-6pm
Sunday	10am-5pm
Monday	10am-4pm

Fall Show | October 17-19 | Palm Springs Convention Center

Presenting Sponsor

adventure, inspired by
AIRSTREAM Inland Empire
EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE · PREMIUM EXPERIENCE

Silver Sponsor

BIDSQUARE

Sponsors

ABELL
AMARA PREMIER RUG RESOURCE
Brand g Vacations
FreightForwarding.com
JOHN MORAN SINCE 1969 AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS
modernism week Official Modernism Week Sponsor

Media Sponsors

atomic ranch
CA HOME + DESIGN
CALIFORNIA HOMES
incollect DESIGN · ART · ANTIQUES
PALM SPRINGS LIFE

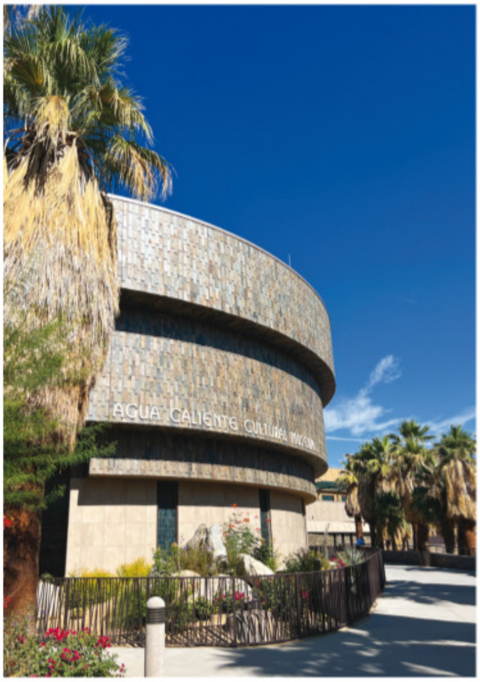
Dolphin Promotions 331.307.7101

PALM CANYON
ANDREAS CANYON

This Is Native Land

The Coachella Valley's original residents were the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

By **Jickie Torres** | Photography courtesy of **Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians**



VISITORS TO PALM SPRINGS don't often hear about the ancient history of this fruitful desert area. For at least the last 5,000 years, the Cahuilla Indians occupied Tahquitz Canyon. Their name for the area was Sec-he, or boiling water, and the hot springs and creeks from the Tahquitz, Andreas and Chino creeks sustained the tribe, providing nourishment and spiritual healing.

The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is a wonderful place to start to build an understanding of the history of these deserts and the people who lived off its lands. The museum, located in Downtown Palm Springs, offers a permanent gallery that is nearly 10,000 square feet of space dedicated to the culture of the Agua Caliente people, their artifacts and ceremonial practices.

The Changing Gallery space often features fine art by fellow native and indigenous artists. There is also a permanent outdoor exhibition called the Oasis Trail that features native plants, rocks and formations from the Agua Caliente Indian Canyons and Taquitz Canyon.

Loewen

AUTHENTIC
LUXURY WINDOWS AND DOORS

LaRue Architects
Foursquare Builders
Casey Dunn Photography

WindowVisions™

San Diego County: 858.345.1076
Orange County: 949.360.0555
Palm Springs: 760.360.4995
WindowVisionsInc.com

KERF
Good joints should be admired. Construction should be simple and honest. We tinker, we improve, and we consider every detail.
kerfdesign.com